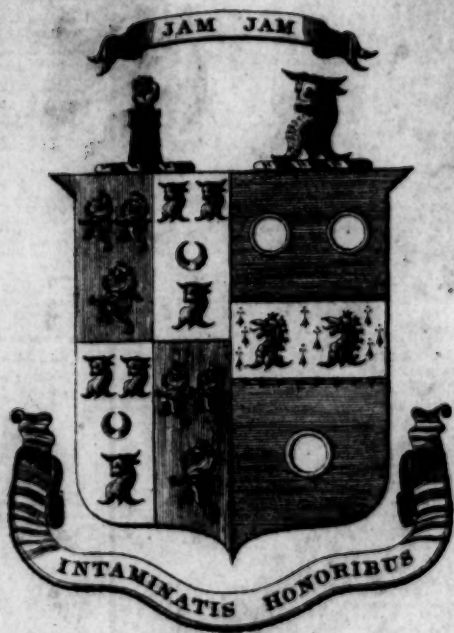


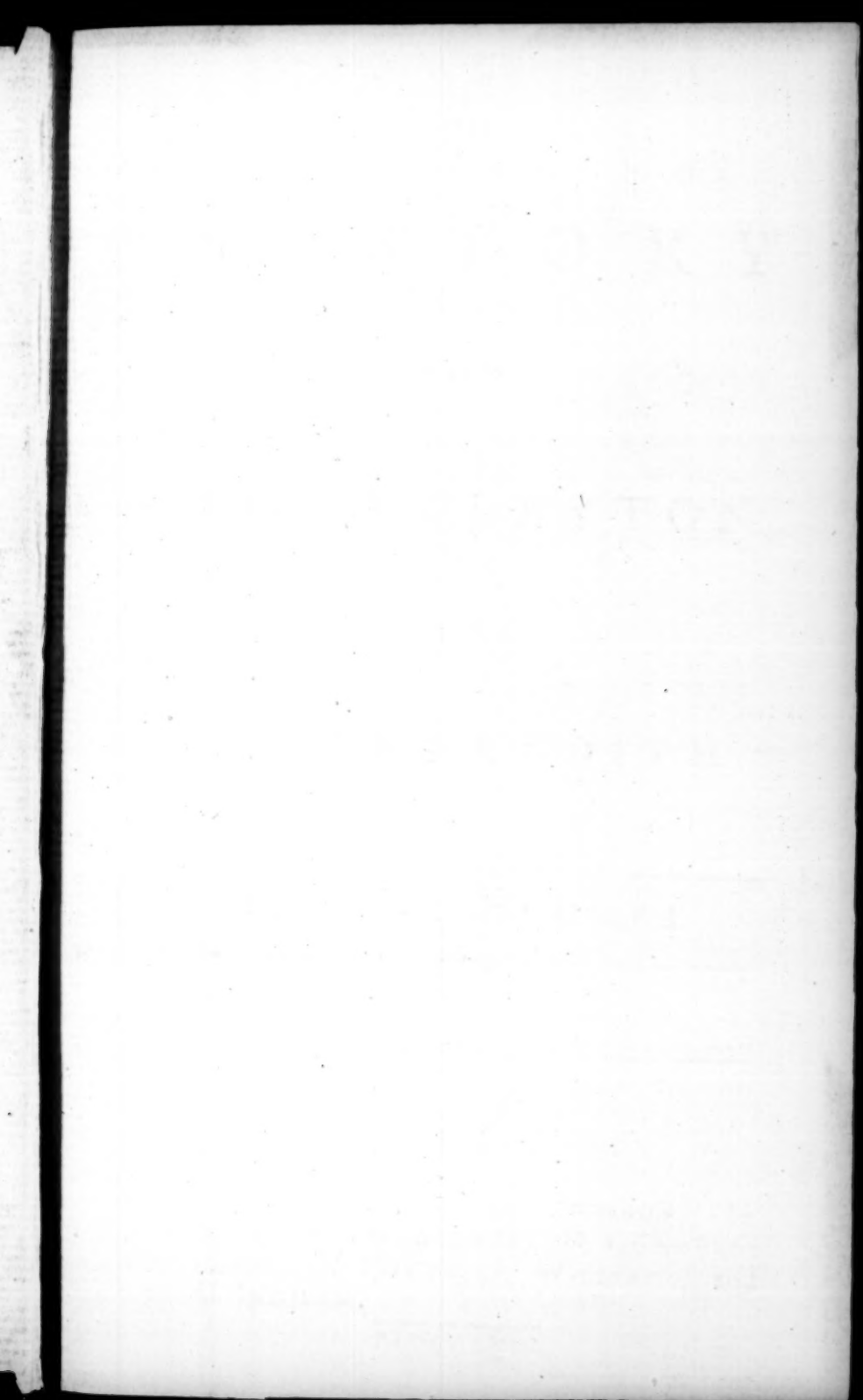
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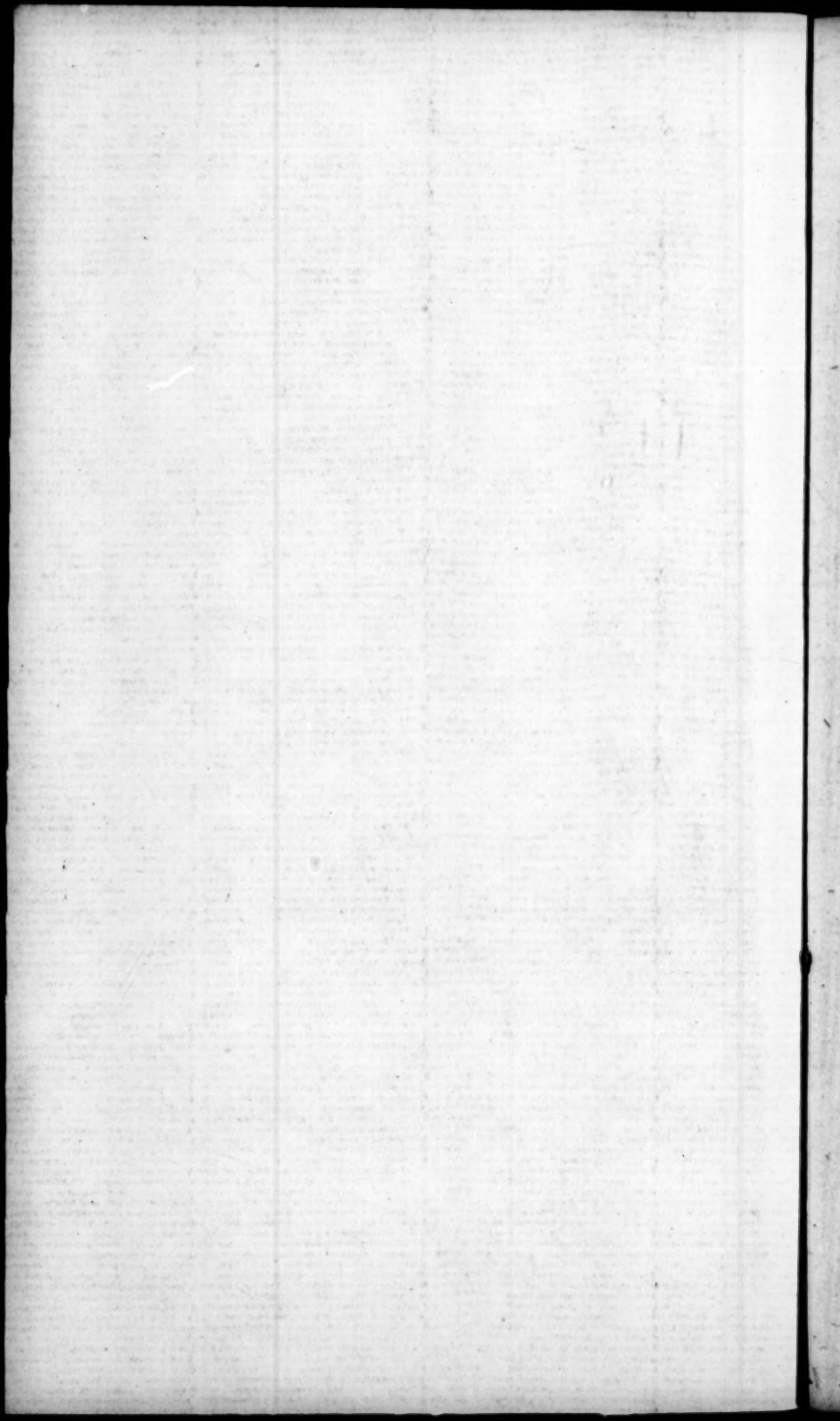
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THE
012638 p. 42
HISTORY

OF
LORD CLAYTON

AND
MISS MEREDITH

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

DUBLIN:

Printed for P. and W. WILSON, H.
SAUNDERS, W. SLEATER, D. CHAMBER-
LAINE, J. POTTS, J. WILLIAMS, and
C. INGHAM.

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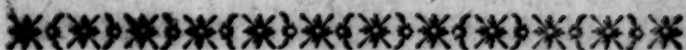
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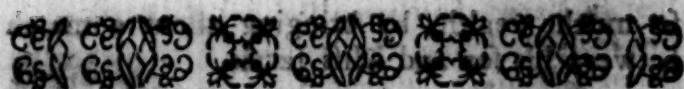


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UNCOMMON characters are very often too hastily pronounced by those who move in a narrow sphere, who have seen little of human life, and who have made few observations on human manners, to be unnatural ones. Readers of this class will, perhaps, charge the editor of the following sheets with having introduced to their acquaintance a collection of beings whom nobody ever knew: but he hopes that they will not carry their prejudices so far as to believe that such characters never existed, because they never happened to meet with others of a similar cast. To readers of an opposite complexion, no apology, he thinks, is necessary, as their knowledge of the world will sufficiently hinder them from accusing him of having gratified fancy at the expence of truth.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
LORD CLAYTON
AND

MISS MEREDITH

* N * O man was ever a more mixed
* * * character than the old earl of Brom-
* * * ley : he had many virtues and ma-
* * * ny vices ; of the latter, the princi-
pal one was a violent passion for
money, which frequently made him appear in
a disadvantageous, and sometimes in a detesta-
ble, light ; he was not, however, universally
condemned for the indulgence of his ruling pas-
sion, till it had prompted him to project the
unhappiness of a very valuable son, by a mar-
riage which was in the highest degree disgusting
to him.

THE earl having fallen into company at
Bath with Mr. Jarvis, a gentleman lately re-
turned from the East-Indies with an immense
fortune, and with his daughter, immediately
conceived a design of forming an alliance with

so much wealth, by bringing about a match between his son and Miss Jarvis.

MR. JARVIS, being extremely flattered with the hopes of seeing his daughter a countess, listened with great pleasure to the overtures proposed to him by a third person employed upon the occasion to negotiate the affair; and the preliminaries were in a short time signed by the two fathers, not only before the inclinations of their children were consulted, but before they had even seen each other, so eagerly did avarice and ambition hurry to be preposterously united.

MISS JARVIS, having disposed of her heart before her father had thought proper to dispose of her person, received his orders to prepare for the arrival of the right honourable lover with the deepest concern.

WITH equal concern Lord Clayton, who was in Ireland on a visit to an uncle by the mother's side, received the letter which informed him of the measures which had been taken, during his absence from England, to render him completely wretched.

LORD CLAYTON, soon after his arrival at his uncle Merrick's, fell desperately in love with Miss Meredith, the daughter of a gentleman of fortune in the neighbourhood, and was soon happy to find himself agreeable in her eyes: so agreeable were they indeed to each other, that after a few allowed interviews, they felt themselves absolutely necessary to each other's happiness; and if mutual love, founded
on

on mutual esteem justly merited, was sufficient to make us happy in this world, they never would have been otherwise: but the union between love and felicity is so rare, that we may rather wonder to see two lovers happy in the fruition of their wishes than unhappy from the frustration of them.

As Lord Clayton and Miss Meredith will very often make their appearance in the following sheets, a description of their persons, accomplishments, and attainments, may serve, perhaps, to interest the reader in their favour, and make them the more deeply participate of their sorrows or their satisfactions.

MISS MEREDITH, when his lordship first saw her at his uncle's, was just entered into her nineteenth year; he was struck with the beauty of her person, she was a little above the middle size, elegantly formed, and graceful in all her motions; her features were ranged in the most agreeable manner, and her complexion of a dazzling brightness, was animated with the highest glow of health; a large quantity of fine dark glossy hair was doubly ornamental by being opposed to nature's lively colouring in her cheeks; and a pair of spirited blue eyes rendered her completely irresistible in his lordship's.

SUCH were Miss Meredith's personal charms, but they were not her only ones; she had an exceeding good understanding, and having received all the advantages of a polished education, did not weaken the impression which her looks had made on her admirers by what

she said to them. She was not indeed of a very talkative disposition, but she conversed with sufficient judgment and taste to make every body who heard her wish her conversible talents were more frequently exerted. With all these attractions, external and internal, she had a sweetness of temper inexpressibly bewitching, and a goodness of heart which rendered her as amiable as she was alluring.

AFTER what has been said, it is certainly needless to add that she was the darling of her parents. They were uncommonly happy in the possession of so exemplary a daughter, and like prudent, as well as affectionate parents, did all in their power to promote the felicity of her life: and with such exquisite propriety did each of them keep up the parental character, that the inclination of their Julia never urged her to revolt against her duty.

Few people were more respected and beloved than Mr. and Mrs. Meredith, and few people ever more deserved the reverence and esteem which they generally attracted. As friends they were inestimable, and as an acquaintance always desirable! in every department of domestic life, they were patterns, and to all those who stood in need of their assistance blessings. The deserving, under the oppressive weight of any unexpected calamity, were sure of being relieved by them; nor were the unmeriting suffered to languish but their lives in misery insupportable. "Those who have not
 "merited their misfortunes," said they, "are
 "particularly intitled to our compassion; even
 "those who have deserved their sufferings
 "claim

“claim our pity, and may be brought by repentance to reformation.”

LORD CLAYTON was every way an object to be esteemed by so amiable a girl as Miss Meredith. His figure was striking, he was near six feet high, agréably featured, and finely proportioned. He was handsome, but his beauty was not of the Adonis kind; he had a clear brown complexion, lively black eyes, and extremely white teeth; so that altogether he was of no small consequence in every female circle.

JULIA was by no means insensible to his lordship's exterior accomplishments; but if his attractions had been confined to his shape or his make, to his features or complexion, to his look or his air, her heart would have lain very quietly in her bosom, without being agitated by the employment of her eyes. His cultivated understanding, his refined sense, his delicate taste, his gentle disposition, his winning manners, and (what many of her sex will think of no sort of importance) his unblemished morals; these were the charms which strongly recommended him to her as a companion, and which powerfully prejudiced her in his favour as a lover.

HAPPY to find himself esteemed, as he wished to be esteemed, by the woman in the world on whom he had fixed his affections, and thrice happy to meet with no opposition from her amiable parents; he gave himself up to all the flatteries of imagination, and sat down, in a transported condition, to acquaint his father with the steps he had taken to settle himself in

the marriage-state—a state into which the earl had frequently urged him to enter—not doubting but that he would readily consent to the choice he had made, especially when he was informed that the lady whom he had selected for a wife, would be possessed of as large a fortune as he had a right to expect.

WHILE he was waiting, full of pleasing hopes for his father's answer, he received a letter which threw him into a situation perplexing and uneasy beyond expression; for the earl desired him to leave Ireland directly, as he had settled every thing for his marriage with a lady agreeable and accomplished, and with a very large fortune.

LORD CLAYTON, when he had read his father's letter, with the most disquieting emotions, carried it to his uncle, who having perused it, told him that he was sincerely concerned at the contents of it. “What do you intend to do, my lord?”

“To obey the summons, disagreeable as it is, most certainly, Sir; obedience is my duty, but you may be assured that I shall leave nothing undone to divert my father from the design which he has, unknowingly, formed against my peace.”

“How will you be able to leave Miss Meredith?”

“THERE, Sir, you have, indeed, touched upon a tender string—By that question you have probed me to the quick; raised a com-
“ motion

“ motion in my thoughts, which will not soon,
“ I fear, be allayed, and put my sensibility to
“ the severest trial. To leave my Julia, my
“ soul’s supreme joy, will be to feel anguish
“ unutterable—Oh! my good Sir, fancy your-
“ self in *my* situation, and then image my dis-
“ tress.”

MR. MERRICK, though an old batchelor, had not a heart dead to the tenderest sensations; he, therefore, was sensibly affected by his nephew’s pathetic effusions, and after having endeavoured for some time, in vain, to make him a little composed, thus proceeded :

“ My dear Harry, you have, I confess, great
“ reason to be shocked at the contents of your
“ father’s letter, and no less reason to lament
“ in such forcible terms the necessity for your
“ return to England! I call it *necessity*, because
“ I am far from being desirous of encouraging
“ the least undutifulness in you—I was a dutiful
“ son myself, and am therefore, as you see me
“ at this instant, an unmarried man. I will ex-
“ plain myself, my situation above five-and-
“ twenty years was something similar to yours
“ at present; my father very much wanted
“ me to marry a young lady whom he had
“ pitched upon for my wife; but as my affec-
“ tions were pre-engaged, I could not bring
“ myself to make my addresses to her; no,
“ Harry, I could not indeed: however, when
“ I found that my father was more hurt by the
“ attachment which I discovered to the lady of
“ my own choice, than by the objections which
“ I framed to the lady of *his* choosing, I told him
“ with a great deal of frankness, that if he
“ would

" would not insist upon my marrying Miss Burton, I would consent to relinquish all my pretensions to Miss Kelly. My frankness pleased him so much, that he closed at once with the compromise, and we never once mentioned the word matrimony to each other afterwards. I punished myself severely, I must own, by giving up a girl of whom I was excessively fond, to be sure: but as my union with her would have made the old gentleman miserable for the remainder of his days, I could not think of it; for I loved my father, he had never thwarted me before, and I am certain that he thwarted me then with the best intentions in the world: he was a good man; a very good man, Harry, and I should have proved an ungrateful dog, if I had sent his grey hairs with sorrow to the grave, for the sake of gratifying a passion which might, perhaps, when all's said and done, have played the devil with me by this time."

MR. MERRICK was here interrupted by the arrival of Mr. Meredith, on whose entrance into the room, Lord Clayton, after a few compliments were exchanged, left it in a manner which made the father of his dear Julia, as soon as the door was shut, ask Mr. Merrick what had happened to his nephew, to occasion such an unusual dejection in his countenance.

" WHY, to tell you the truth, my worthy friend, the alteration which you have observed arises from his attachment to your amiable daughter."

" How,

“How, how, Sir!” said Mr. Meredith briskly,—“No riddle if you please; what do you mean? He left us, seemingly, very happy last night; you therefore surprize me by attributing the change in his looks to his love for Julia.”

“He was indeed extremely happy last night, but the letter which he received this morning made him much otherwise.”

“You grow still more obscure by attributing his unhappiness to such opposite causes.”

“OPPOSITE as they are, Sir, they both co-operate against his peace. The letter in question comes from England, from his father the earl of Bromley, to hasten his departure, in order to be united to a lady whom he has chosen for his daughter-in-law: and as my nephew is too strongly attached to Miss Meredith to bear the thought of being connected, as his father wishes him to be, with any other woman, the separation from her will be painful beyond expression: Harry will, I know, feel the most cutting anguish upon the occasion, for he has a prodigious deal of sensibility, and I wish his disappointment may not injure his health by throwing him into a melancholy state.”

MR. MEREDITH, being then informed that his company was desired at home, took leave of Mr. Merrick, expressing no small concern at the intelligence which he had heard, and discovered the more uneasiness as he knew that he should,

should, by the communication of it at home, render his daughter very tenderly distressed.

WHEN Mr. Merrick found himself alone, he sat ruminating for sometime on Lord Clayton's embarrassed situation, and after having started and rejected a number of expedients for the warding off a blow, which threatened to deprive him of the highest felicity he had promised himself in this world, at last determined to accompany his nephew to England, and to make use of every cogent, every persuasive, argument he could think of not only to turn the earl from his purpose with regard to his prepossession in Miss Jarvis's favour, but to facilitate the admission of Miss Meredith into the family, as a relation instead of her.

HAVING formed this benevolent resolution, he went in search of his lordship. He found him sitting in the library, with his father's letter in his hand, absorbed in thought; so absorbed was he, indeed, that he was not sensible of his uncle's being in the room till he heard his voice.

"I HAVE hit upon a scheme, " Harry," said Mr. Merrick, rather abruptly, but he was too eager to be serviceable to his nephew to deal in preparatory speeches, "I have hit upon a " scheme, to make myself useful to you in this " affair."

LORD CLAYTON, raising his eyes slowly from the paper on which they had been rivetted, said with a sigh, "I am afraid, Sir, it is " not in your power to be so," and then quitting his

his chair, walked up and down with ~~let~~, in which were strongly painted the disturbance of his mind.

“DON’T give way to desponding reflections, I am a mortal enemy to despair. Besides, you are, in short, frightening yourself with meer shadows at present ; you could not appear with a more deplorable face if you was actually married to Miss Jarvis.”

“OH! name her not, name her not, for my heart is fixed on my dear Julia.”

“SHE well deserves all your affection and esteem, and I will leave nothing undone to forward your happiness with her.”

“I AM thoroughly assured, Sir, of the goodness of your intentions on my account, but am greatly at a loss, I must own, to comprehend in what manner you can avert the storm which is ready to burst on my head.”

“THAT storm is at a distance, though, think of that, Harry ; you talk like a passionate lover, but not altogether, in my humble opinion, like a sensible man—But I make allowances for the agitation of your mind upon this occasion ; the struggles between love and duty pulling different ways, stir up, I know, full well, a confounded deal of disquiet. However, to come to the point, and to tell you my scheme, I intend to take a trip to England with you.”

“To

“ I ^{to} England, Sir ! I little expected to
“ hear of such an intention after the encomi-
“ ums you have bestowed on this agreeable
“ spot. How often have you said that nothing
“ should draw you from so comfortable a re-
“ treat ?”

“ TRUE, nephew, very true, I have often
“ said so ; but I shall quit it, nevertheless,
“ for some time, with a great deal of pleasure,
“ in order to lend *you* a helping hand, if my as-
“ sistance should be wanted. You take me,
“ Harry ?”

“ I DO, my dear Sir, and with the deepest
“ gratitude.”

“ I AM satisfied, you need not say any more
“ about that—Make the necessary preparati-
“ ons for your voyage as soon as you please, I
“ will be ready to attend you, and when I get
“ within reach of the earl, you may depend
“ on my exerting my best abilities to prevent
“ his lordship from insisting on your marrying
“ Miss Jarvis, and to induce him to approve
“ of your attachment to Miss Meredith. He
“ is not an ill-natured man nor a weak man,
“ and therefore I hope I shall make something of
“ him in your favour. He had always, I know,
“ amidst his many good qualities, too great a
“ fondness for money, and it is that fondness
“ which has prompted him to strike up an alli-
“ ance with old Jarvis, in hopes of getting all
“ his riches into his family, as Miss Jarvis is
“ an only child ; but by convincing him that
“ Miss Meredith will have a very handsome for-
“ tune, that she is extremely well connected, and
“ flattering

“flattering expectations, he may, perhaps, be
“induced to alter his mind. He has been too
“much in a hurry though to go so far with-
“out consulting *you* about the projected match.”

IN this manner did the worthy Mr. Merrick endeavour to comfort his amiable nephew, under the uneasiness which the earl's letter had given him; and his benevolent efforts were so efficacious, that they excluded despondence, though they did not produce absolute satisfaction; Lord Clayton was highly satisfied with his uncle's kind offer to accompany him to England, and they both proceeded to accelerate the preparations for the intended voyage.

WHEN Mr. Meredith, on his return home, had finished his business with the person who waited to transact it with him, he acquainted his daughter with the disagreeable situation of her lover, in the gentlest terms he could make use of, because he knew that even in those terms his intelligence would occasion a considerable deal of anxiety in her gentle bosom: wishing at the same time that she had never seen his lordship, as their mutual attachment, which had appeared to be so auspicious, was likely to prove unprosperous. He felt as any affectionate father would feel in such circumstances; but feeling also that he should only act a ridiculous part by suppressing an event of which she could not be long ignorant, he communicated to her what he had heard, without any concealments, and then availed himself of the most soothing, softening language, to hinder it from making a fatal impression on her tender heart.

JULIA, notwithstanding her father's very paternal behaviour upon this trying occasion, was so excessively shocked at the news imparted to her, the more affected by it as it was intirely unlooked for, that she fainted in her mother's arms, who was near enough to receive her, and remained for some moments more like a beautiful corpse than a living creature.

WHEN she recovered, she, with a becoming blush, told her fond parents, who hung over her full of the sincerest compassion, that she hoped they would not think the worse of her for having been unable to support herself against the shock which her spirits had received. "Indeed, Sir," added she, turning to her father, "I could not help sinking under it, nor can I now help sighing to think of his lordship's departure—his separation from me—perhaps—for ever. Mr. Merrick has often said how very dutiful a son Lord Clayton always was; if, therefore, after his introduction to the lady chosen for him, his filial obedience should continue unshaken—supposing him indifferent to my rival, which he may not be—I shall remember, with the deepest regret, the day on which I first beheld him. Prejudiced, I will ingenuously own, at first fight in his lordship's favour, and still more prepossessed in it when I became acquainted with his merit, I had not strength to resist his assiduities; how could I resist them when I thought myself particularly flattered by them? Yet, had I not been encouraged by the encomiums which you, and my dear mother, bestowed upon that merit which I had discerned in him, I should certainly have
" repelled

“repelled his approaches to me in the light of
“a lover ; animated by those encomiums I
“strove not to repress them, because I believed
“that the admission of them would not be con-
“demned, and I was happy to find myself not
“mistaken—You, my amiable parents, by
“seeming to approve intirely of his visits to
“me, gave him but too much encouragement,
“for he by that encouragement made himself
“but too necessary to my happiness. I will,
“however,” concluded she, “try to bear my
“disappointment with a proper fortitude, and
“to behave in such a manner to his lordship,
“in the hour of separation, as not to excite
“in him a supposition that I cannot exist with-
“out him, though the felicity of my life will
“be considerably diminished by his compliance
“with the contents of his father’s letter—I am
“afraid to think of his *full* compliance with
“them.”

ON Julia’s ceasing to speak, her, father
assured her that her carriage to Lord Clay-
ton had never been censurable ; that his merit
sufficiently justified the esteem which she enter-
tained for him ; and that he received the news
of his approaching departure from his uncle’s
with little less surprize and concern than her-
self. “Lord Clayton,” added Mr. Meredith,
“is a very amiable young gentleman, and I
“was, I own, pleased to see a growing incli-
“nation in you both for each other. Setting a-
“side his rank, and the fortune he must inher-
“rit, he is a man who will be an ornament to
“any family with which he forms an alliance.
“He is, it is true, going to England in obedi-
“ence to his father’s urgent request ; but I
“am

“ am not inclined to believe that his departure
“ from hence will be attended with conse-
“ quences totally unanswerable to our wishes,
“ There are actual uneasinesses enough in life;
“ we have no occasion to sharpen the edge of
“ those which fall to our lot, by arming our
“ fancy against our peace. It is by no means
“ certain, that the earl of Bromley, when he
“ hears of his son’s attachment to you, will ty-
“ rannically insist upon his rendering himself
“ wretched for the remainder of his days by
“ marrying another woman. Besides, I have
“ vanity enough to think that the Claytons
“ will not be disgraced by an union with
“ the Merediths. In short, my dear Julia, I
“ would not have you give way to terrifying
“ apprehensions: Lord Clayton has, undoubt-
“ edly, the highest regard for you, and that
“ regard will, I hope, prevent him from pay-
“ ing an implicit obedience to his father, un-
“ der the influence of an unreasonable, a con-
“ temptible passion. Filial duty, I grant,
“ stands in the first class of domestic virtues;
“ but I cannot subscribe to the opinions of some
“ rigid defenders of parental authority, who
“ consider a son under the necessity of making
“ himself miserable in the marriage-state, if
“ his arbitrary father should, in a capricious
“ humour, demand such a sacrifice of inclina-
“ tion to obedience. But you are, I see, Ju-
“ lia, too much affected by this unlucky affair
“ to receive any consolation from me at pre-
“ sent; I will, therefore, leave you to your
“ mother, and talk it over more particularly
“ with my neighbour Merrick, who is a wor-
“ thy creature, and will, I am sure, from his
“ natural benevolence of temper, as well as
“ from

“ from his regard for his nephew, endeavour
 “ to make the earl lay aside his thoughts about
 “ the lady whom he has chosen for his daughter-in-law.”

MR. MEREDITH then quitted the room in order to return to his neighbour, whom he now wished to see more than ever.

MEETING Lord Clayton within about a hundred yards of his uncle's habitation, who came forward in a slow pace, and with a very solemn countenance, he stopped him, took him by the hand, and having pressed it affectionately, said,
 “ I don't wonder, my lord, to see you look so
 “ grave—I heartily sympathise with you upon
 “ the undesirable occasion : if you are going to
 “ my house, you will find Mrs. Meredith and
 “ my daughter as little pleased with Lord Bromley's letter as I am.”

LORD CLAYTON, having thanked Mr. Meredith for speaking in such kind terms, told him, that he was indeed going to enjoy a melancholy pleasure in Miss Meredith's company ; a pleasure, however, which he begged leave to renew frequently till the hour of his departure arrived.

MR. MEREDITH, pressing his hand again, said, “ I won't detain you, my lord; you
 “ may depend on being well received while you
 “ stay with us: I only wish you had no reason to mention the word departure with so
 “ mournful an emphasis,” and proceeded to Mr. Merrick's.

Mr.

MR. MERRICK, as soon as Mr. Meredith entered the parlour, in which he was sitting, rose up from his chair with an unusual alacrity, and shaking him heartily by the hand, said, "My good friend, I am prodigiously glad to see you again."

MR. MEREDITH, somewhat surprized to perceive so much chearfulness in his neighbour's looks, after the concern he had declaredly felt at his daughter's disappointment, could not help telling him that he did not expect to find him in such spirits, as he had left him in the morning rather in a chagrined and discontented situation.

"AND so I am now, Sir," replied he, "I am in a state of no small vexation, and not at all contented; but some thoughts have started into my head since you was here, which have made me appear in a different light to you: to speak plainly, my worthy friend, as I am very desirous of seeing my nephew united to Miss Meredith, and wish to promote their mutual happiness, I am going to England with Lord Clayton, to make use of all my rhetoric to persuade the earl not to destroy his son's felicity, by obliging him either to incur his displeasure by disobedience, or make himself wretched for life by marrying Miss Jarvis, that is the young lady's name: her father came lately from the East-Indies immensely rich."

"JARVIS, Jarvis," said Mr. Meredith, "a sad fellow of that name went over from hence

" hence about ten years ago : he was obliged
 " to fly from his creditors, and to leave Ireland
 " for other reasons : he had a pretty girl too,
 " a natural child, for he was never married,
 " of whom he was so excessively fond, that
 " he carried her to England with him. I
 " have since heard that he went abroad, but
 " never could learn to what place he trans-
 " ported himself.—If this Mr. Jarvis should
 " be the man I mean, I can give the earl
 " some information concerning his moral cha-
 " racter, which will not induce his lordship,
 " I believe, to have any close connections with
 " him.—But he may be quite a different
 " person."

" He may be, he may be," said Mr. Mer-
 " rick, " but I should be glad however, me-
 " thinks, to have the history of *your* Jarvis,
 " because I shall certainly make very particular
 " enquiries about lord Bromley's ; and if he
 " proves to be the same, the communication
 " of that history to his lordship may, perhaps,
 " do *our* cause no disservice."

MR. MEREDITH, then, after having declar-
 ed how much he was obliged to his good neigh-
 bour for the extreme friendliness of his behavi-
 our, proceeded in the following manner :—

" MR. Edward Jarvis, a reputable linen-
 " draper in Cork, acquired by his sobriety,
 " industry, and frugality, a very pretty fortune,
 " and having bred up Tom, his only son, in
 " his own business, left him at his death, in
 " so flourishing a way that, if he had been of
 " his father's happy and laudable turn, he
 " might

“ might have greatly improved the capital
“ which devolved to him: but Tom, who had
“ always a violent aversion to a shop, which
“ was strengthened as he advanced in years, by
“ his frequenting the play-house, and making
“ the actors his companions, as soon as he
“ found himself his own master, and under no-
“ body’s controul, disposed of all his stock in
“ trade, in order to commence gentleman,
“ and wipe off the disgrace which his father,
“ he foolishly imagined, had endeavoured to
“ entail upon him, by leaving that stock to his
“ management. To support the character of
“ a gentleman, according to his false ideas of
“ gentility, when he had converted his effects
“ into ready money, he launched into all kinds
“ of extravagance: he glittered in laced
“ cloaths, associated with the best company
“ (tho’ the *worst* for him, because they were
“ men of family as well as fortune, who de-
“ spised him for the meanness of his birth,
“ while they diverted themselves with spurring
“ him on to ruin) kept mistresses, gave enter-
“ tainments, played deep, drank hard, and,
“ in short, did every thing to break his consti-
“ tution, and to bring himself to beggary—
“ But the vices I have mentioned were not the
“ only ones of which he was guilty: a very
“ scandalous intimacy was generally supposed
“ to be carried on between him and lord F—,
“ and he certainly used the mother of the girl
“ whom he took with him to England with a
“ barbarity for which he richly deserves an
“ halter. The mother of this girl was the only
“ child of two honest cottagers, at whose house
“ he was most kindly received, and hospitably
“ treated, when, being seized with a sudden
“ disorder,

“ disorder, in consequence of some of his irregularities, he was unable to pursue his journey to the place to which he was travelling. Molly Barton had, unfortunately for her, charms sufficient to make Tom mad for the possession of them, and he levelled all his art against her simplicity with so much success, that he prevailed upon her, when he was well enough to mount his horse again, to get up behind him very early one morning while her parents were fast asleep.

“ As TOM was going to pay a visit to a gentleman full as loose in his principles and as licentious in his manners as himself, and at whose table a lady presided whom he could easily get rid of when he grew tired of her, he pleased himself with thinking, all the way he rode with his lovely innocent Molly at his back, how cleverly his design against her virtue might be executed in a house, the master of which would rather be inclined to forward than to defeat it.

“ FLUSHED with the hopes of soon triumphing over that innocence which ought to have inspired him with emotions very different from those he felt, he arrived at his friend's, who, never having seen him in such an equestrian equipage before, could not help looking at him as if his appearance required some explanation.

“ TOM having answered his looks with others sufficiently intelligent, dismounted, and receiving his blushing Molly in his arms, recommended her to the care of Mrs. Murdel.

—She was allowed to take her keeper's name, who had sagacity enough to see that her new female visitor was quite unacquainted with the intentions of her fellow-traveller, and was base enough to wish immediately to bring her into a condition similar to her own.

MOLLY BARTON being naturally a virtuous, and not at all a silly girl, tho' she had too hastily given credit to the promises of her pretended lover, who had indeed made a great impression on her tender heart, behaved in such a manner to Tom when he began to take advantage of the situation into which he had decoyed her, and to press pretty briskly for the only favour which he wanted to receive from her, as he beheld the sex entirely in a sensual light, and he was extremely disconcerted and thrown out of his play. After he had been so successful in drawing her from the protection of her parents, and had flattered himself that she was desperately in love with him, he little expected to have met with a sturdy resistance, instead of an unlimited submission. She reminded him of his promise to marry her, and absolutely refused to gratify his wishes till he had made her his wife.

SURPRISED at such a rebuff, Tom was, for some time, prevented from knowing what to say to her; but at last told her, that as he certainly had promised to marry her, he would as certainly keep his word on his return home, entreating her, with all the eloquence he was master of, to indulge him in

the

“ the mean while with all the liberties of a
“ husband.

“ MOLLY, for a great while, was deaf to
“ his elocution, and refused to grant the liber-
“ ties he solicited till he had a right to demand
“ them : but when he, longing with redoub-
“ led eagerness to enjoy her charms, as they
“ appeared during her opposition to his impor-
“ tunities doubly alluring, gave a paper to
“ her, in which he bound himself by the most
“ solemn oaths, to make her his wife on his
“ return to his own house : that paper, and a
“ sudden flow of tenderness coming upon her at
“ the same time, conquered her scruples, and
“ nature triumphed over virtue—She yielded—
“ and was undone ; for Tom having previous-
“ ly determined to get the paper which he had
“ given her on purpose to silence her scruples
“ into his hands again, soon found an opportu-
“ nity when she was not in a situation to de-
“ tect him in the execution of his treacherous
“ designs, and by so doing fixed her entirely
“ in his power.

“ MOLLY, as soon as she missed the paper,
“ was excessively alarmed, and informed her
“ seducer of her distress in terms which were
“ not less forcible for being natural, but with a
“ simplicity which evidently shewed that she
“ did not suspect him of having betrayed her.
“ Tom, very happy to find that he was not
“ the object of her suspicion, lamented her loss
“ in well-adapted language, but could not by
“ all her intreaties, be prevailed upon to sup-
“ ply it with another promissory note, though
“ her intreaties were movingly addressed to him

“ on her knees, and accompanied with streaming tears: he was equally deaf to the former, and blind to the latter; unmelted by either, he only begged her with much earnestness, to make herself entirely easy on his account, and to believe that he would not forget the promise about which she discovered so much anxiety; adding, that he wanted not the sight of his own hand-writing to quicken his remembrance of it.

“ MOLLY, relying on his honour, was comforted by his assurances, because she thought them sincere. In a few days afterwards he carried her home as his wife, and she contented herself with her shadowy character, hoping, that if she was studious to make herself agreeable to him, she should in time induce him to marry her. Animated with these hopes, she exerted all her endeavours to render her society pleasing, and they proved successful. Before the end of the year she brought him a daughter, of whom he grew more and more fond every day, when she began to prattle, and made his Molly very happy by his whole behaviour, which was affectionately conjugal and paternal.

“ By the extreme prudence of Molly's conduct, and her unwearied efforts to deserve the appellation of a good wife, and a good mother, Tom was very well satisfied with his domestic life for near nine years; but then being unfortunately seized with a violent desire to revisit his native city (having quitted it for some years) he fell into the company of a set of sharpers, who soon reduced
“ ced

‘ced him to such difficulties, that, finding
‘himself unable to discharge his debts of justice, when his debts of honour were settled, he resolved to leave the kingdom, and make a bold push in England, where lived a distant relation of his father’s in affluent circumstances, whom he had never seen indeed; but as he was a man distinguished for his benevolence and generosity, he presumed upon his own dexterity and address to procure the exertion of these virtues in his favour. As he, however, had not cash enough to defray the expences for his removal, he went to his creditors, separately, and by amusing them with a specious story about an estate which had just fallen to him from an unexpected quarter, but loaded with some incumbrances, he raised contributions which enabled him to conduct his *manœuvres* in the manner he wished: when he had levied the necessary supplies, he left his house on a sudden, without communicating his designs to Molly, with Harriot Jarvis, his daughter, and a maid servant, who was also ignorant of his intentions, and hastened to the place of embarkation. He left his Molly in the same situation as he had left his parents when he robbed them of what they held most dear in life, asleep; and was in too much haste to fly from the embarrassments which he had brought upon himself by his follies and his vices, to think of the distress into which he should plunge her by so cruel a desertion.

‘MOLLY, when she waked and found not her usual companion by her side, was not surprized, because he frequently rose before her;

‘ but she was greatly so when, on her going to
 ‘ Harriot’s chamber, she missed her dear child,
 ‘ on whom she doated, the more for resembling
 ‘ her father; for notwithstanding all Tom’s
 ‘ imprudencies and disinclination to make her
 ‘ his wife, she felt the sincerest affection for
 ‘ him: the tenderness of her disposition exclu-
 ‘ ded all resentment from her bosom, and she
 ‘ lived in hopes, that the reasons which he
 ‘ from time to time urged for not marrying her,
 ‘ would be removed.

‘ THE enquiries which she made upon the
 ‘ occasion were attended with no success, for
 ‘ the remaining servant could give no account
 ‘ of the sudden diminution of the family. The
 ‘ day was spent in the most agonizing suspense,
 ‘ and every following day did but increase her
 ‘ anguish of mind.

‘ HAPPILY for Molly, however, in the
 ‘ midst of her affliction, Tom’s creditors were
 ‘ more considerate than she could have expect-
 ‘ ed them to be. As soon as they heard of
 ‘ her calamitous condition, they waited on her,
 ‘ and pitying the peculiarity of her circum-
 ‘ stances, assured her that they would not take
 ‘ advantage of Mr. Jarvis’s infamous behaviour
 ‘ both to her and to them, and throw her into
 ‘ difficulties by seizing his effects: nay, they
 ‘ generously allowed her to dispose of them,
 ‘ when she informed them that the disposal of
 ‘ them would be absolutely necessary for her sub-
 ‘ sistence, and helped her to sell them to the best
 ‘ advantage; so much esteem, and so much
 ‘ compassion had they for her; but they assu-
 ‘ red her, at the same time, that if ever Jar-

vis came into their hands; they would not shew him the least favour.

WHEN Molly had wearied herself to no purpose with conjectures about the route which Tom had taken, with his daughter and maid, she reasoned herself into resignation; and by firmly believing that every thing in this world is ordered for the best, lived with a decency and propriety which charmed every body who knew her, upon what the sale of the household things produced.

JUST when her little stock was exhausted, Mrs. Jordan, a very benevolent lady, the wife of one of Tom's creditors, wanting a discreet person to be always about her, and being extremely well satisfied with Molly's conduct, asked her if she would come and live with her; Molly, with pleasure and gratitude, accepted of the proposed terms, and was immediately received into the family.

MRS. JORDAN, having soon afterwards some business in England, on the death of a sister in Leicestershire, prepared for the voyage, and Molly accompanied her. Since their departure I have heard nothing about the latter; and all I know concerning Tom is, that the relation to whom he went, having been formerly engaged in a mercantile life, had found an opportunity to send him abroad, but I never could learn whither.

HERE Mr. Meredith closed his narrative, and Mr. Merrick, who had discovered many laudable emotions during the recital of it, said, 'I thank

‘I thank you, Sir, for what you have communicated to me; my blood rises at the very thoughts of such a fellow’s existing whom you have described; and if the Mr. Jarvis, in whose favour lord Bromley is so strongly prepossessed, should prove to be the identical man, I shall take no small pleasure in acquainting his lordship with his villainous proceedings. I can’t pretend to say what effect my information may have on his lordship; but I do assure you, Sir, that I would not have any connections with such a rascal if he had all the riches of the *West*, added to those of the *East*, at his command.’

WHILE the two above mentioned worthy neighbours and friends were employed in the above manner, Lord Clayton and Miss Meredith were engaged in a very tender conversation; a part of which may not, perhaps, be thrown away on the reader of sensibility, who, alone, will feel the force of it.

‘You look so melancholy, my dear Julia, as if I was going to be separated from you for ever—Banish all gloomy ideas, my amiable girl, and believe me when I call H—— to witness, that nothing shall shake my constancy to you. I am very sure I can love no other woman, and I am as sure that all the powers on earth shall never make me utter falsehoods at the altar. I am unhappy enough already by being obliged to tear myself from you; do not, oh! do not, render me more so by appearing as if you thought me capable of falsifying my vows to you.’

‘I HAVE

‘ I HAVE too high an opinion of you, my lord,’ said Julia, raising her eyes, in which tears stood trembling, from the ground, ‘ to imagine that the language of your lips at present is not the language of your heart: but you have owned that you never saw the lady whom your father has chosen for you, and, therefore, you cannot say how you will be affected at the sight of her.’

‘ YOU cannot entertain a very high opinion either of my love or honour, Miss Meredith, if you suppose that the brightest beauty nature ever made, has charms sufficient to drive your image from my mind. No, my lovely Julia, wrong me not so much—think not so meanly of me.—By every thing dear to me in this world, by your sweet self, dearer to me than any thing in it, I solemnly swear, that you shall never have reason to tax me with perjury. No—Julia—you have twined yourself so strongly about my fond heart, that it will never beat for any other of your sex. Look up, my dearest girl—do you still doubt the firmness of my attachment to you? are you still disposed to harbour injurious suspicions concerning me?’

‘ I WOULD not, H——n knows, my lord,’ replied she, ‘ again lifting up her moistened eyes from the ground, I would not willingly harbour such suspicions: I would not encourage such enemies to my peace; but you have made yourself of so much consequence to my happiness, that I cannot think of your voyage to England, without alarming apprehensions; especially

‘ especially as you have generously acquainted
 ‘ me with the cause of it: and though you
 ‘ have, in the kindest manner, endeavoured to
 ‘ soothe the disquiet of my heart, which you
 ‘ have innocently occasioned to it, I cannot help
 ‘ feeling more than I can possibly express at
 ‘ the approach of the separating hour.’

LORD CLAYTON was at once pained and pleased by his Julia’s last speech; pained to think of the uneasiness, pleased to think of the tender sensations which she felt on his account. After such an affecting speech from *her*, operating in such a manner upon *him*, it may be easily imagined that the separating hour was a trying one to them both: it was indeed truly so in a very eminent degree, and the anguish which each endured at the other’s *final adieu*, was literally beyond expression.

LORD CLAYTON embarked with a heavy heart, and his uncle, with all his friendly attempts to comfort him, found it no easy matter to make him tolerable company: so much did the recollected parting-scene at Mr. Meredith’s, and the anticipated one upon his arrival at his father’s, employ his thoughts and increase his dejection. Little did he say for some hours, while they were under sail, and that little Mr. Merrick extorted from him with the utmost difficulty.

FINDING, at last, that his efforts to make him a cheerful companion were not so effectual as he wished them to be, he turned to a gentleman who sat by him, who appeared to be not

in the least of a gloomy disposition, and who had occasionally shewn himself very well qualified to carry on a lively and entertaining conversation, and said to him in order to rouse his lordship, 'Don't you think it great pity, Sir, that love should make a man stupid? Lord Clayton here, my good nephew, could talk upon any subject whatever, and to the purpose too, let me tell you, before he fell in love; but now 'tis a devilish hard matter, to get a syllable out of him once in a quarter of an hour.'

LORD CLAYTON smiled faintly while his uncle was speaking, and at the end of his speech fetched a deep sigh, but said nothing.

'WHY, Sir,' replied the gentleman, 'I am not at all surprized at his lordship's taciturnity: I have met with several people as silent in the same situation, and can easily suppose that a lover, when absent from the mistress of his heart, may have his attention so powerfully employed, as not even to know whether he is in company or by himself: love, Sir, is a mighty odd passion; it appears in various shapes, and its operations are sometimes very extraordinary, whimsical, and unaccountable; but thank Heaven, amidst all my misfortunes, I never was in love.'

'MISFORTUNES, Sir!' said lord Clayton to the gentleman, looking at him with a wondering eye.

'Ay, my lord, I have been harrassed by a variety of misfortunes under the pressure of which

‘ which many men would have sunk : but I, being of a chearful temper, and not liable to be so violently affected by any unprosperous occurrences in this world, as to sit down in despair, and murmur at providence, for not ordering every thing agreeably to my wishes, bore them with a firmness which my friends called philosophy, but which my enemies termed insensibility : however, that firmness enabled me to exert myself towards the removal of the misfortunes which oppressed me, and when the exertion of all my abilities was insufficient to remove them, the consciousness of having done nothing to deserve them, was a consolation not to be described.’

‘ You breathe the spirit of a true philosopher, Sir,’ said Lord Clayton, at his pausing, ‘ and if you don’t think my request impertinent, I shall be obliged to you for the recital of these incidents in your life, which most required the exercise of your fortitude.’

THE gentleman, having made his lordship an assenting bow, opened his narrative in the following manner.

‘ My name is Benson : my father was possessed of a large estate in the West Riding of Yorkshire : he was a man of learning, sense, and good-nature ; but was so deficient in that sort of discretion necessary for the management of domestic affairs, that if my mother had not been more happily formed for the conduct of such affairs, he would not have been able to make his estate, considerable as
it

‘ it was, sufficient to defray his family expences.
 ‘ His good-nature was the cause of his indiscretion;
 ‘ for he was of so compassionating a disposition,
 ‘ that he could not bear to see objects in distress,
 ‘ without actually relieving them: but as his penetration
 ‘ was not equal to his pity, he frequently threw away sums upon
 ‘ unworthy objects, which should have been employed
 ‘ towards the relief of deserving ones; and too many of the
 ‘ former, availing themselves of his exquisite sensibility,
 ‘ appeared before him with counterfeited wretchedness,
 ‘ in order to receive his bounty, well knowing that he could
 ‘ not resist the appearance of it.

‘ My father being, as I have said, a man of learning,
 ‘ was pleased to see in me very early a turn to letters;
 ‘ and that my literary taste might receive all possible
 ‘ encouragement, I was placed under an eminent master
 ‘ in the county, in whom the scholar, the gentleman,
 ‘ and the christian, were most agreeably united; for his
 ‘ erudition was without pedantry, his gentility without
 ‘ affectation, and his religion without gloom. Under his
 ‘ care I spent the happiest days of my life, and I frequently
 ‘ remember those days with a particular satisfaction,
 ‘ because the instructions which then made an impression
 ‘ upon my mind, fortified it in such a manner, as to
 ‘ render it proof against the many rough attacks of
 ‘ adversity afterwards, to disturb its peace. Thank Heaven!
 ‘ it was never totally destroyed: for these instructions,
 ‘ and my own natural propensity to look upon every event
 ‘ in this world as ordered by a Being all-wise and all-good,
 ‘ for purposes not to be fathomed
 ‘ by

‘ by our scanty understandings, co-operating,
 ‘ prevented me from repining at the various
 ‘ disappointments which from time to time tried
 ‘ my temper, indeed a good deal, but never
 ‘ plunged me into despondence; and I support-
 ‘ ed myself in the midst of the *sharpest* by con-
 ‘ sidering, that this life is only a passage to ano-
 ‘ ther, in which, we are strongly induced to
 ‘ believe, those who have suffered undeserved-
 ‘ ly here, will be rewarded in proportion to their
 ‘ merit hereafter.

‘ THE death of my excellent mother, just
 ‘ when I had entered into my sixteenth year,
 ‘ was the first blow levelled against my happi-
 ‘ ness, and I felt it severely: a better woman,
 ‘ a better wife, a better parent never lived.
 ‘ The more severely did I feel the weight of
 ‘ it, because I had reason to expect very un-
 ‘ pleasing consequences from it: for my father
 ‘ not being so much concerned at the loss of
 ‘ her as I was, though an affectionate and in-
 ‘ dulent husband, and not able to live without
 ‘ a female companion, married as soon as the
 ‘ half year of mourning was expired, a lady
 ‘ young enough to be his daughter, with no
 ‘ fortune, with nothing to recommend her but
 ‘ her personal charms. Bewitched with her
 ‘ beauty at a ball, he had no occasion to make
 ‘ a long courtship; for the match was too ad-
 ‘ vantageous to be refused by a lady who had
 ‘ always discovered an inclination to be *well-*
 ‘ *married*, in the fashionable sense of those words,
 ‘ and no predilection for any particular man.—
 ‘ Like a prudent woman, she looked upon her
 ‘ beauty as a merchant does on a bale, and the
 ‘ best

‘ best bidder had the best chance to get it into
‘ his possession.

‘ MY father, not being in a good state of
‘ health when he married Miss Pearson, was,
‘ before the end of his first year with her, in
‘ so declining a way, that every body, but
‘ himself, plainly perceived he was in a deep
‘ consumption; and before the expiration of
‘ the second year, he died, leaving me entire-
‘ ly in the power of my young mother-in-law,
‘ till I came of age.—Mrs. Benson’s behaviour
‘ upon the occasion was far from shewing any
‘ concern; there was, on the contrary, a very
‘ unbecoming levity in her carriage, as if she
‘ was delighted with her widowhood, which
‘ shocked me extremely; for I loved my father,
‘ and considered the want of decency in her de-
‘ portment as an insult to his memory.

‘ MRS. BENSON, soon after my father’s death,
‘ gave such indisputable proofs of her dislike
‘ to me, which she had art enough to conceal
‘ while he lived, as I was greatly beloved by
‘ him, that I had more and more reason e-
‘ very day to lament, with the sincerest regret,
‘ the moment of his decease—I could say, I
‘ could do nothing to please her: all my words
‘ were misinterpreted, and all my actions attri-
‘ buted to wrong motives—Even my literary
‘ taste subjected me to much ill treatment from
‘ her: She hated reading, she could not abide
‘ bookish people: they were so awkward in
‘ company: they were only fit to mope by
‘ themselves.—In short, she found so many op-
‘ portunities to find fault with me, that I led
‘ a most

‘ a most uncomfortable life with her, and wished, with an inexpressible ardor, to arrive at my one-and-twentieth year, that I might be no longer under her controul.

‘ WARMLY, however, as I wished for that period, I did not care to let Mrs. Benson see that I was dissatisfied with the power which my father had given her over me in his will, naturally supposing that she would render my life still more disagreeable to me, if I made such a discovery. You may wonder, perhaps, that I remained under the same roof with her : my allowance was so small that I could not have subsisted myself like a gentleman from her ; and though she treated me in a tyrannical manner, I thought it more prudent to endeavour to make her my friend, than to irritate her more against me, by flying from her.

‘ AFTER having felt the effects of her ill-nature and imperious temper, for near a twelve-month, I was forced to a double load of uneasiness, for she then fell in love with a major on half pay, not worth sixpence besides that pay, in the very assembly-room which had proved so fatal to my father, and in a few weeks afterwards was married to him.

‘ MAJOR DIXON was a man six feet high, and a spirited fellow : he had fought several duels ; he had debauched an infinite number of women, and he danced, to borrow a female phrase, like a devil : but his stature, his bravery, his immorality, and his dancing, were his only attractions : he was illiterate to a contemptible

‘temptible degree, proud, passionate, and ill humoured; but Mrs. Benson only saw him at an assembly in a captivating light, and he had dexterity enough not to appear in any other to her till the indissoluble knot was tied.

‘THE major, soon after his wedding-day, threw off the mask which he had assumed, in order to quarter himself upon a good jointure, for he had made proper enquiries into the widow’s circumstances before he ventured to go to church with her, and appeared in colours very different from those in which she beheld him while he courted her: the lover in a short time was lost in the husband, and the husband not long afterwards became an arbitrary master. So intoxicated, however, was Mrs. Dixon with the choice of her eyes, that though the despotism of his behaviour frequently pained her heart, she almost idolized the ground he walked on, and bore all his unkind usage with the apparent resignation of a martyr: yet, while she submitted without complaining, to the ill treatment she received from him in various shapes, she was far from being unaffected by it, and therefore wished to strike upon some expedient to soften the austerity of his carriage to her.

‘THE major, finding her one day in tears, said to her in a fierce accent, ‘what do you blubber so for, child? Hay, Bless, what ails you?’

‘How can you ask those questions, my dear major,’ replied she, with great mildness, ‘when you cannot but be sensible that your
‘want

'I want, of affection kills me? Are you not
'cruel in treating me with so much harshness
'for having put myself, and all I have in the
'world, in your power?' *Lord Clayton said.*

'A MIGHTY all, indeed,' cried he, swag-
gering across the room; 'I have been cursed-
'ly bit, madam: taken in by a lying rascal,
'and—n him—If I had known how little you
'have in your own possession, I should have
'kept my neck out of the collar; but I am
'brightly served for being in such a confounded
'hurry.'

'WITH those words he stalked out of the
room, and flapped the door after him, with a
violence which at once proved the strength
of his arm, and the weakness of his under-
standing. The discovery of his disappoint-
ment, with regard to her fortune, made a
deep impress on Mrs. Dixon's mind; but
instead of resenting his having married her
merely for her money, she formed an infa-
mous design to induce him to behave to her
with more kindness and consideration, which
when communicated to him met with his
heartly concurrence. *Lord Clayton said.*

'FROM that time there was a striking al-
teration in the major's behaviour to Mrs.
Dixon: they lived together in a harmony
which surprized me extremely; and I was
not much less astonished at the change in the
carriage of them both to me, for they equally
studied to make me amends for all past ne-
glect, and unaffectionate treatment. *Lord Clayton said.*

Lord Clayton said.

I DID not, however, long enjoy the pleasure which resulted from their kind behaviour to me. The day on which I came of age was my last happy day in a house I then had a right to call my own. The major before its arrival desired me to let him have the honour of celebrating it with spirit; and as I looked upon his request as a particular compliment, I made no objection to it. According to the usual way of proceeding upon those occasions, I should have been the master of the entertainment; but pleased to see him and Mrs. Dixon happy themselves, and desirous of making me so, I consented to be a guest.

A GREAT deal of company was invited, and a merrier day was I believe never spent: it was joyous beyond description; but I knew not how it ended. When I waked in the morning, I waked with such an outrageous head-ach that I was almost distracted: yet, even then the torment I endured was more supportable than the shock which I received soon afterwards.

THE major, when he heard I was stirring, came to my chamber, and without discovering any concern at the situation in which he found me, told me in a peremptory style of speaking, that I must prepare to remove myself from a house in which my stay would be no longer agreeable to him.

STRUCK with so sudden, so unexpected a speech, I never was so confounded in my life: I stood

‘ I stood almost stupified with amazement; but, at length, beginning to feel my consequence, as I ceased to be a minor, I said to him, “ What do you mean, Sir, by ordering me in so magisterial a manner to leave the house of which I am now the owner ? ” With a sneer of inexpressible contempt, he replied, ‘ You the owner of this house ! No, Sir, I will make you feel that it belongs to me, with every thing in it.’

‘ THIS second speech of his puzzled me prodigiously : I could not possibly account for the insolence of his carriage, and for his boldness in assuming a character to which he had no pretensions.

‘ You will find it difficult, I fancy, Sir,’ said I, ‘ to defend your assertions’—

‘ DIFFICULT ! no—no, young gentleman, I know very well what I say, and what I do: I never do things by halves: it is not my method of going to work.’

‘ AFTER having thrown out several more phrases equally elegant and mortifying, he pulled a paper out of his pocket, and holding it out to me in his stretched hand, said, ‘ Did you write your name at the bottom of this here paper ?

‘ I fixed my eyes on the place pointed out to me, and freely confessed that my name there was indeed in my own hand-writing.’

‘ VERY

‘VERY well, very well,’ replied he; ‘why then, Sir, by this same paper, I claim a right to this house and to every thing in it, as I told you before—you may read it, if you please,’ continued he with an execrable sneer, giving it to me, ‘for you will not be able to undo what you have done by looking at it.’

‘I READ the paper, but will not attempt to describe my feelings, when I found that I had made over all my real and personal estate to him—It fell to the ground’——

‘You are satisfied now, Sir, I suppose,’ said he, grinning from ear to ear.

‘I CANNOT deny my hand, Sir,’ replied I; ‘but am well assured that some foul play has been made use of to procure the appearance of my name so much to my disadvantage.’

‘His reply was brutal to the last degree: taking up the paper, he gloried in having made me sign my name when I was not in a condition to know what I was about, and left me to my own reflections upon the occasion, highly applauding himself for his barbarous ingenuity.’

‘SUFFICIENTLY aggrieved by the major’s cruel cunning, I was still doubly mortified when I heard him and Mrs. Dixon laughing immoderately in a room under me soon afterwards—‘They are rejoicing,’ said I to myself, on the success of their vile machinations; but

‘ but they cannot with their most injurious treatment shake my reliance on that all-just and all-powerful Being, who will not suffer the wicked to go unpunished; he will assuredly make them feel the terrors of his vengeance either here or in a future state.’

‘ HAVING breathed that short soliloquy, which came sincerely from the heart, I went down stairs, and without taking leave of my triumphant adversaries, quitted the house directly. I had not much money in my purse; but after what had passed, I was not in the least desirous of receiving additional insults, by soliciting any favours of the pecuniary kind.

‘ WHEN my eyes had taken their last view of those grounds, the inheritance of which had been so unfairly wrested from me, I directed my steps towards a little farm a few miles off, which my father had stocked for a worthy man who had served him faithfully many years, in order to reward him for his industry, fidelity, and integrity. His name was Hudson, the most grateful creature I ever knew: he had a wife as good as himself; they managed their farming-affairs so well together, that they always contrived to be in comfortable circumstances. They had also a pretty innocent daughter whom the major had several times, but in vain, endeavoured to seduce.

‘ WHEN I related to him the story of my extraordinary ejection, the honest fellow lifted up his hands to heaven and cried ‘ What will

‘will the world come to!’ By the simplicity of that ejaculation giving as a strong proof of the goodness of his heart, as if he had been enabled by literary acquisitions to flourish with pompous periods on the iniquity of the times.

‘THOSE who have used me so ill, William’ said I, ‘may, perhaps, live to repent of their criminal conduct.’

‘I HOPE they will, Sir,’ replied he, ‘and ran out of the neatly furnished parlour, into which he had respectfully carried me, but returned soon with a bag in his hand.’

‘HERE is a small matter, Sir, which I have saved this year, take it, and God bless you with it; I only wish it was a thousand times as much; for I cannot do too much for the son of my old master, to whose generosity I owe all I have in the world.’

‘His eyes glistened while he spoke those words, and I could not help throwing myself on his neck in tears, so much was I affected at so noble—I wish I could not add so rare—an instance of gratitude.’

‘No, William,’ replied I, changing my attitude, and folding him in my arms, ‘I cannot consent to be accommodated with the necessities of life at the expence of your labour: your intended kindness to me, however, shall be always remembered, shall be always acknowledged with pleasure, and should I ever—should I ever have it in my power to reward you

' you for thus honouring the memory of my
 ' dear father, by feeling compassion for me,
 ' be assured I will—I am not quite destitute of
 ' money, my good William; when the little
 ' I have is gone, I will try, by virtuous indus-
 ' try, in some shape or other, to procure a sup-
 ' ply: but never will I do a mean thing, ne-
 ' ver commit an unjust action for the support
 ' of my existence. The nearest relation I now
 ' have, and the most likely to put me in a
 ' way to better my fortune, is my uncle Pater-
 ' son at Jamaica, to whom I determined to
 ' convey myself, while I was coming hither,
 ' with all possible expedition. If I can but
 ' make my money hold out (and we never
 ' know what may be done by oeconomy till we
 ' have been thrown into straitened situations)
 ' till I get to a sea-port, the well-known name
 ' of my uncle, from his extensive connections,
 ' will, I doubt not, facilitate my passage to
 ' him, if I should have enough left to answer
 ' the charges of the voyage.

' MRS. HUDSON entering the parlour just
 ' after I had spoken the last word, William ran
 ' up to her, and with that sort of affectionate
 ' smile which is oftener seen in the face of the
 ' married peasant than in the features of the
 ' wedded peer, said to her, ' Do, my dear
 ' Sally, try to persuade Mr. Benson to take this
 ' bag with him: I am almost ashamed to offer
 ' him such a trifling sum, for there is but ten
 ' pounds in it; but I am sure he is heartily
 ' welcome to it, and I shall work with double
 ' pleasure to fetch it up again.'

' SALLY'

‘ SALLY, a fit companion for her worthy husband, then advanced to me with the most winning countenance I had ever seen, and pressed me to increase their mutual happiness by accepting that small proof of their gratitude—holding the bag to me—

‘ SALLY’s persuasions were very powerful, but they were not irresistible. I agreed however to stay with them till I was in a properer condition for travelling, as I began to find farther ill effects from the base attacks on my constitution the preceding evening: attacks which would not have, perhaps, been so injurious to my health, if I had not been uncommonly temperate, and unaccustomed to deep drinking, into which I was scandalously decoyed.

‘ THE following day, while I sat in my chamber ruminating on the peculiarity of my own state, and on the precariousness of all human enjoyments in a world full of vicissitudes, and replete with wickedness, two of the major’s servants arrived with the cloaths, linen, &c. belonging to me. In one of the parcels I found a note written by Mrs. Dixon, which contained a feeble condemnation of her husband’s unjust procedure, and something like an assurance that she would endeavour to make him think seriously of a restitution. The note was accompanied with a purse: I tore the note, and returned the purse: but kept the other things, because I had a right to them.

‘ I WAS, I must own, very well pleased at the arrival of my cloaths &c. &c.—because I had then an opportunity of availing myself of some of the money offered to me by honest William and his wife, without feeling any conscientious scruples, by leaving with them what would rather encumber than be serviceable to me on my journey. In consequence of that pleasure, I converted all my unnecessary apparel into ready cash ; finding myself able to lay aside the walking scheme, I employed William to procure me a good horse for the occasion : he did so, and urged me, as soon as I could bear the motion of riding, so earnestly to accompany me to the intended sea-port, that I could not refuse him. There we separated ; and I shall never forget the humane anxiety he discovered because his duty as a husband and father would not permit him to attend me to the place I had pitched upon. He poured out the most fervent—I will venture to add—the sincerest prayers for my safety and prosperity in every scene of life in which I might be engaged ; and I with as much fervor, with as much sincerity, wished him a long continuance of the domestic happiness which he deservedly enjoyed.

‘ I THOUGHT myself extremely lucky in meeting with a friend in the captain of the ship which was ready to sail for Jamaica : the more so as I had never seen his face till then, nor did he appear ever to have seen me before ; but as soon as I made my name known to him, and my affinity to Mr. Paterson, he embraced me with a great deal of cordiality,
‘ and

and told me that he would do every thing in his power to render the voyage agreeable to me. By captain Thomson's polite assiduities, therefore, I had no reason to complain of my accommodations, which, with a fair wind, fine weather, and the society of some entertaining people on board, had such an effect on my spirits, that I gave the reins to fancy, and could not help buoying myself up with the hopes of a turn of fortune in my favour—I was young at that time—I have long ceased to deal in such kind of self-flattery.

NOTHING happened during the first fortnight of our voyage worth communicating, except a little incident, the recollection of which almost brings tears into my eyes at this instant. Having occasion to change my cloaths, I took out a suit which William had packed up in a box purchased by me at Hull, and to my very great surprize found in one of my waistcoat pockets the individual bag I had rejected at the farm with the sum which it then contained.

STRUCK at so unexpected a sight I stood for some moments with my eyes fixed upon it, feeling in these moments a variety of emotions: the gratitude and generosity of the good creature, who secreted it for my service, affected me very much. But as there was no possibility of my returning it to him at that time, I laid it by carefully with a determination to make him sufficient amends for his disinterested regard for me, if fortune ever enabled me to act agreeably to my wishes.

‘ FROM that day we pursued our voyage
‘ with such unprosperous omens, that I began
‘ to think I should never reach the port to
‘ which I was bound, alive.—Half a dozen re-
‘ solute and refractory fellows gave the captain
‘ a great deal of uneasiness, and made him do
‘ violence to his inclination, as he was natural-
‘ ly humane, by inflicting severe punishments
‘ on them for their disobedience : punishments
‘ which they certainly merited; but they were
‘ attended with consequences which threatened
‘ destruction to every person on board.

‘ THE mutineers, thoroughly galled with
‘ the correction which they had received, me-
‘ ditated revenge : but, in order to conceal
‘ their infernal intentions, redoubled their acti-
‘ vity and diligence, and behaved in such a
‘ laudable manner, as to induce the captain
‘ to believe that they would never deserve the
‘ same discipline again.

‘ A FEW nights afterwards they contrived,
‘ when every body around them was either fast
‘ asleep, or too much intoxicated to observe
‘ their motions, to set fire to the vessel, after
‘ having thrown out a boat in order to make
‘ their escape in it; and we should all; it is
‘ highly probable, have perished in a dreadful
‘ manner, if one of the villainous gang, provi-
‘ dentially repenting of what he had done, had
‘ not, instead of following his comrades into the
‘ boat, awaked the captain, and informed him
‘ of his dangerous situation, imploring his par-
‘ don, full of contrition, upon his knees, for
‘ having

‘ having been accessory to so atrocious an action.

‘ AN alarm was immediately given through the whole ship: those who were asleep were soon waked, those who had lain stupified on deck were soon roused to a sense of their danger, and when they were sensible of it were not slow in exerting their endeavours to stop the progress of the flames; and indeed, there was so much activity at every part of the ship, during which the captain himself, who issued the most prudent orders on the distressful occasion with the most admirable presence of mind, was not idle, that they were in a short time got under; but not before they had done considerable mischief.

‘ WHEN the flames were quite extinguished, the captain made a strict enquiry after the five delinquents who had been impeached by their repenting companion, imagining that they had concealed themselves somewhere; but they had rowed themselves out of his reach.

‘ BESIDES the damage done to the vessel by the flames, there was no small havock among the baggage belonging to several of my fellow-passengers; but I was the principal sufferer by them, for every thing in my possession, except the cloaths on my back, was consumed. However, I murmured not at my fate. I was ruined, but I was resigned: the greatest part of my cash was in the box which was destroyed, yet I looked forward

‘ with a lively hope, and felt the consciousness
‘ of my own innocence sufficient to bear me up
‘ against the shocks of adversity. One passenger
‘ only on board sustained no loss by the
‘ fire, and he was the most profligate wretch I
‘ ever met with ; but his peculiar good fortune
‘ made no change in my sentiments with regard
‘ to the dispensations of providence.

‘ JUST when we were within two days sail
‘ of Jamaica, the elements conspired against
‘ us. A storm arose, and raged with such fury,
‘ that our masts were soon torn away, and our
‘ rigging scattered in the air : the majority of
‘ the crew were washed overboard, and many
‘ of the passengers overwhelmed by the bursting
‘ waves. We were driven several leagues
‘ from our track, and the ship from its leakiness
‘ filled so fast, that the captain, myself,
‘ and four men besides, could hardly keep her
‘ from sinking by pumping : we were also reduced
‘ to a deplorable situation for want of
‘ provisions, so that, after the storm had subsided
‘ for some hours, we expected every moment
‘ to be buried in the sea ; and floating
‘ upon the hulk, committed ourselves to the
‘ care of Heaven : weak, faint, and emaciated,
‘ we remained several hours in a state which
‘ made existence scarcely supportable. At last
‘ we descried a sail, at a great distance indeed ;
‘ but we were ready to expire under the joyful
‘ emotions which it excited in us. As the ship
‘ approached we perceived French colours ;
‘ but situated as we were, nature conquered all
‘ political considerations : for every human creature
‘ in distress is an object of compassion to
‘ another

‘ another who is not entirely divested of humanity.

‘ THE French commander behaved on the occasion, as any truly benevolent being would have behaved in the same circumstances ; but the politeness which accompanied his benevolence, gave it an additional lustre. He accommodated us with every thing necessary, and assured us that he should on his arrival at Martinico, from which place he had been privateering, I found without success, with a great deal of pleasure, facilitate our passage to Jamaica, or to any other of our settlements more desirable by us.

‘ MONSIEUR de Bouchaine did not amuse us with flowery speeches full of excessive complaisance, without a grain of sincerity in them : he recommended us in so proper a manner to the governor (to whom he was distantly related) that he not only treated us with humanity but tenderness, and as soon as we recovered our strength and spirits, sent us in a sloop of his own to our wished-for island.

‘ MY uncle received me very affectionately, and by thus receiving me, made me so happy that my past disappointments and distresses were but faintly remembered. When I had related to him the *occasion* of my voyage, he exclaimed with great vehemence against my mother-in-law, attributing the major’s villainous proceedings to her contrivance ; and when I acquainted him with my misfortunes *during it*, he embraced me with all the eagerness of a

‘fond parent, declaring that he would do his utmost to make me forget my ill usage and ill luck.—‘I cannot help wondering, concluded he, at your philosophical and pious turn so early in life; but I look upon it as a right turn, and dare say that you will reap no small advantage from it in your journey through life.’

‘MY uncle, discovering in me an aptitude to learn mercantile business, trained me up in his computing-house, and when he died, about ten years afterwards, left all that he was possessed of to me, as he was unmarried and had no child; but a little before his death, he recommended his principal person to be my partner, having a pretty capital of his own, together with abilities which might be of considerable service to me.

‘AGREEABLY to his dying request, as I may justly call it, I took Mr. Roper into partnership, with no kind of reluctance; he was, indeed, a very sensible, active man; he was formed for the management of commercial affairs; he was indefatigably industrious, and had a great many good qualities.

‘MR. ROPER, when he was become my partner, struck out a variety of expedients to improve our fortune, and as those expedients proved successful, I began to have a higher opinion of his talents, than I had while my uncle was alive. Being always rather of a speculative than a bustling temper, I left the business almost entirely to him, and made frequent

‘quent visits to a little retired villa I had purchased a few miles in the country, in order to enjoy my intellectual pleasures, which were ever my favourite ones, without interruption. In that retirement I spent my time with the more satisfaction, as I reposed the greatest confidence in my partner, and grew, at length, so fond of it, that I buried myself for weeks successively among my books, without feeling the least desire to make enquiries after my plantations.

‘AFTER having passed about five years, partly at Kingston and partly at my villa, I was one morning extremely surprised at the latter, by a visit from a person whom I never expected to have seen there: my visitor was honest William, and he accosted me with such marks of undissembled joy in his countenance, that I could not help asking him, with a wondering accent, what brought him to Jamaica.’

‘I CAME on your account, Sir,” replied he: ‘I would have gone to the end of the world to find you out.’

‘YOU are a good creature, William,’ said I, ‘but sit down and tell me your business.’

‘WHY, Sir, you must know, after my return home, I could not rest for thinking of Major Dixon’s roguery, and so resolved to get at the paper he made you sign, if possible.’

‘ IT was a kind resolution, William, but I cannot flatter myself with supposing that you ever found an opportunity to carry your point.’

‘ I HAVE carried it at last, though Sir,’ replied he, rubbing his hands, ‘ I have, indeed, been a long while about it; but better late than never you know, Sir: howsomever, I don’t know whether I should have had the paper if Mrs. Dixon had lived.’

‘ LIVED ! Is she dead then ?’

‘ SHE is, and it pleased God not to let her go out of the world, till she had done all in her power to right the injured.’

‘ You amaze me, William—but pray go on.’

‘ WHEN she found herself past recovery, Sir, she sent for me, and after having prayed to Heaven to forgive her for conniving at your being kept out of your estate, gave me the paper, by which you was deprived of it, and desired me to convey it to you, that you might proceed to take measures immediately against the major, whom she accused heavily of having used her very ill, and of being the cause indeed of the condition in which she then lay: she did not live many hours afterwards. As soon as I heard she was dead, I determined to set out myself to Jamaica, not only to thank you in person for the several kind remittances which I have received from you, but to be sure of your having this paper, which

‘ which I thought of too much consequence
‘ to be trusted to the hands of any body else.’

‘ WILLIAM then gave me the very paper
‘ which I had signed in a state of intoxication,
‘ and I clasped the honest fellow close to my bo-
‘ som, for his gratitude and affection; telling
‘ him that the trifling sums I had sent him from
‘ time to time were not equal to his deserts,
‘ and that if I lived I would give him reason to
‘ be more satisfied with my acknowledgments
‘ for all his services to me.

‘ THIS unexpected event almost threw me
‘ out of that æquanimity which I had, hitherto,
‘ firmly relying on the goodness and justice of
‘ providence, maintained: the pleasure I felt
‘ upon the occasion broke out in a manner not
‘ altogether philosophical; but the little tran-
‘ sports of nature were soon checked, by the
‘ reflections on the uncertainty of every sublu-
‘ nary enjoyment which followed them.

‘ HAVING furnished myself with a pretty
‘ large sum, imagining that my adversary
‘ would not evacuate his ill-gotten possessions
‘ without being compelled by a superior weight
‘ of metal, and taking leave of Mr. Roper,
‘ who very warmly congratulated me on my
‘ seeing the road clear to the recovery of my
‘ estate, I left Jamaica, and after an uncom-
‘ monly expeditious voyage, surprized the ma-
‘ jor with my arrival in England.

‘ THE major was startled at my arrival; but
‘ not intimidated; for when I, after having
‘ upbraided him in the severest terms, though
‘ in

‘ in terms not half so severe as he merited, for
‘ his treacherous proceedings, produced the pa-
‘ per by which he had divested me of my law-
‘ ful inheritance, he with an insolent compo-
‘ sure in his countenance, drew another paper
‘ out of his pocket, and told me, that while
‘ he was master of that manuscript, I might
‘ whistle for my estate.

‘ He would not let me see the paper on
‘ which he so much plumed himself; but I sup-
‘ posed it to be a duplicate, with the forgery
‘ of my name at the bottom of it: and finding,
‘ by his behaviour, that my conjectures about
‘ him had not been too hastily formed, I set off
‘ for London to consult a gentleman equally
‘ eminent for his abilities and integrity in the
‘ law, that I might, at once, act against him
‘ with vigour and with prudence. By *his* ad-
‘ vice I entered into a prosecution against the
‘ major, who made the most spirited prepara-
‘ tions to keep the rent-roll which he had wrest-
‘ ed from me in his own power, and made my
‘ suit so very expensive, that I was obliged, in
‘ a short time, to send to Jamaica for a sup-
‘ ply.

‘ INSTEAD of a supply, I received intelli-
‘ gence which cut off all the hopes I had en-
‘ tertained of recovering my right, just when
‘ they were the most flattering: for Mr. Roper
‘ informed me, that my plantations were to-
‘ tally destroyed by a hurricane.

‘ I was, I own, shocked at the contents of
‘ his letter on my first perusal of it: I was
‘ moved, but I murmured not; I had for many
‘ years

‘ years been blessed with prosperity, and I was
‘ thankful for so long a continuance of it: I
‘ had formerly supported myself under the tri-
‘ als of adversity, and I prayed fervently for
‘ the same fortitude on the return of them.

‘ I WENT to Jamaica, and beheld the ha-
‘ vock which the hurricane had made with the
‘ eyes of disappointment, not despair: but all
‘ that havock did not afflict me so much, as
‘ the treachery of him with whom I was too
‘ closely connected, not to be absolutely ruined
‘ by it. Mr. Roper, in short, pretending to
‘ have received my consent, had sold my house,
‘ disposed of my effects, and conveyed himself
‘ away nobody knew whither.

‘ My situation was still more distressful: my
‘ appearance at Kingston brought a number of
‘ creditors about me, and as my partner had
‘ rendered it impossible for me to answer their
‘ demands, my person was seized, and I was
‘ imprisoned. It was to no purpose that I gave
‘ a succinct account of the state of my affairs,
‘ and assured them that they never would re-
‘ ceive any benefit from my imprisonment. Mr.
‘ Roper had, I found, before his precipitate
‘ departure, informed them that I was gone to
‘ take possession of a considerable estate in Eng-
‘ land: they, accordingly, disbelieved me, when
‘ I urged my inability to discharge the debts
‘ which stood in their books in my name.

‘ PROVIDENCE, however, did not permit
‘ me to remain a great while bereft of my li-
‘ berty, and poorly accommodated with the
‘ meer necessities of life. Mr. Sullivan, a
‘ young

‘ young gentleman of Irish extraction, but a
‘ West-Indian by birth, the son of the most
‘ merciless of my creditors, having a large for-
‘ tune bequeathed to him by an uncle in Ireland,
‘ and finding himself, by such an unexpected
‘ legacy, rendered independent on his father,
‘ generously bound himself to cancel all my
‘ debts, and begged me to accompany him to
‘ Dublin, where his uncle had long enjoyed a
‘ lucrative post.

‘ IN consequence of this happy alteration in
‘ my condition, I accompanied Mr. Sullivan,
‘ and lived with him in friendship and affluence
‘ several years.—I should have, perhaps; lived
‘ with him at this time, if he had not married
‘ a woman of so perverse a temper, as to have
‘ no rest till she had occasioned a breach be-
‘ tween us. As her husband was extravagant-
‘ ly fond of her, she easily filled his mind with
‘ suspicions concerning my honour, with regard
‘ to him: in short, she contrived to make him
‘ so jealous of me, that I thought it more pru-
‘ dent to withdraw, in order to prevent any
‘ fatal consequences arising from his credulity.
‘ I am, therefore, going with a small sum
‘ which I saved out of his liberalities to me
‘ (for a temporary relief, in case I should be
‘ again the sport of fortune) to retire to my
‘ faithful William’s farm, where I am sure of
‘ being well received.’ Under his humble, but
‘ happy roof, I shall endeavour to busy myself
‘ in some manual occupation for the benefit of
‘ my health, and to earn something that I may
‘ not be a burden to him: and by having fre-
‘ quent recourse to intellectual amusements, I
‘ hope

‘hope to keep my mind in a state of contentment and tranquility.—I have gone through a variety of scenes; I have met with ill usage and good treatment, I have been lucky and unlucky in this world, but my successes never made me forgetful of the mutability of all human affairs, nor did the misfortunes I encountered ever drive me to despondence: so that I am, I trust, better prepared for another change, whether prosperous or adverse, than if my life had not been distinguished by such striking vicissitudes; and I thank God, with all my heart, for not having made me of a disposition to censure his government of the universe because every thing does not happen exactly according to my wishes.’

HERE Mr. Benson finished his narrative, and all who heard it not only admired the enviable frame of mind by the assistance of which he had supported himself under his several distresses, but assured him that they hoped he would live to triumph over the base possessor of his patrimony.

AT Chester Lord Clayton and Mr. Merrick took a very friendly leave of Mr. Benson, and his lordship gave him a sincere invitation to his father’s house in — Square, being certain of his meeting with a cordial reception, if at any time business or pleasure should bring him to London.

WHILE the Earl of Bromley and Mr. Jarvis were like two mercenary *dealers* pleasing themselves with coupling their children together like cattle, and waiting with impatience for Lord Clayton’s

Clayton's arrival from Ireland, Miss Jarvis took no small pains, as she abhorred their Smithfield transactions on her account, to make them of no consequence to her. In the most supplicating strain she implored her father not to force her inclination to rebel against her duty, nor to condemn her to be married to a man whom she had never seen, and whom she could never like, when seen, as her heart was too, strongly pre-engaged to be at her own disposal.

LANGUAGE of this kind, uttered with all the appearance of sincerity, and in an affecting manner, would have moved many parents to compassion, and have made them repent of their arbitrary behaviour; for certainly to take steps to render a child miserable for life by a detested marriage is to lay aside the tender, and to assume the tyrannical parent. Children ought to be implicitly dutiful, it will be said, by those who are warm (perhaps weak) advocates for parental authority: but by what law are children necessitated to become wretched in a state from which they cannot extricate themselves to humour capricious or avaritious parents? not surely by the law of nature, nor of reason?

MR. JARVIS dazzled with the prospect of a coronet in his family, was equally deaf to his daughter's supplications, and unmoved by her tears—Ambition and affection are hardly compatible; the man who thinks of aggrandizing his child by marriage seldom bestows a thought upon her happiness at the same time. But happiness is now grown so unfashionable a word, that an apology is almost necessary for the use of it.—Day after day however Charlotte endeavoured

deavoured to make her father relent in favour of Mr. Harrison, to whom he had himself given the greatest encouragement, and whom she could not give up for any other man, so deep was the impression which he had made on her tender heart.—Every day her endeavours proved fruitless indeed, but every day strengthened her attachment to her lover.

MR. HARRISON had neither high birth nor a large fortune to recommend him ; but he was a gentleman, and had a very handsome allowance from his father, who was in exceeding good circumstances :—the old gentleman, having acquired a genteel fortune in a public employment, was retired to taste the sweets of it, as he never was fond of a public life, though no-body was better fitted to make a figure in it. He loved his son with the sincerest affection, and very much approved of his prepossession in favour of Miss Jarvis—He felt himself, it is true, somewhat piqued at the behaviour of Mr. Jarvis ; but for Charles's sake he stifled his resentment, and deemed it more prudent to try to bring about his son's union with the only woman in the world with whom he could be happy, by address, and by concealing what he felt upon the occasion, than to defeat his wishes by avowing his chagrin.

THINGS were in this situation when Lord Clayton and his uncle arrived at Bromley-house. They were both received with open arms by the earl, who expressed particular satisfaction at the arrival of the latter, not having expected ever to have seen him again in England.

LORD

LORD BROMLEY very soon came to the point, by telling his son, that he hoped to find him pleased with the contents of the letter which he had sent to hasten his departure from Ireland; but Lord Clayton's answers upon that subject were so little satisfactory, that the old earl grew warm, and left the room in a passion, swearing that if he did not consent to marry Miss Jarvis he would never see his face any more.

LORD CLAYTON was much affected at his father's passionate carriage, and moved towards the door in order to follow him, that he might give a new turn to his ideas, and inspire him with new sensations; with ideas and sensations more favourable to him: but Mr. Merrick stopped him. 'Stay, my lord,' said he, 'and be advised by one who is truly your friend, and will leave no stone unturned to throw matters into another channel. Your father is now in a violent passion, and, therefore, he cannot be talked to, especially on a subject disagreeable to him, at a worse time: have a little patience till he is cool, for cool, I know he will be, by and bye (I am no stranger to his quick flying-out when his temper is ruffled) then I will attack him, and muster up all the logic I can, to convince him that he is acting a part for which he will be justly condemned by every man who has a drop of good-nature in his veins. Our first business must be to make a strict enquiry about this Jarvis, to whom his lordship is in such a hurry to be allied, only because he has brought home such a d—d deal of money from the East-Indies, that

‘ that is, in other words, cheated the poor tawny devils without any conscience. Remember Mr. Meredith’s story—If he turns out to be Tom Jarvis of Cork, I shall without difficulty I believe, put a spoke in his wheel for all, his *lacs* and *rupees*.’

LORD CLAYTON very readily agreed to govern himself by his uncle’s advice, and took care, during the remainder of the day, not to whet the earl’s anger by opposition.

MR. MERRICK, not being of a humour to delay the execution of any scheme which had started into his head, went the very next day to the Jerusalem coffee-house. There, while he was drinking his coffee, asked the waiter, who brought him the paper of the day, whether a Mr. Jarvis, lately arrived from the East-Indies, used that house.

THE waiter answered in the affirmative, and told him also he was expected every minute.

MR. MERRICK, then observing that a gentleman who sat by him made up a lip at the name of Jarvis, took an opportunity, without appearing impertinently inquisitive, as he found by his conversation, that he had not long been from Bengal, to ask such questions as would, he thought, tend to procure the intelligence which he wanted. He was not disappointed ; for on his saying that he had heard Mr. Jarvis came over with a very large fortune, the gentleman replied, ‘ Aye, Sir, a much larger one than he deserves, between you and I : but some folks have bet-
ter

‘ter luck than others: Mr. Jarvis was not always the great man he is now: there was a time when he would be glad to crack a bottle with *me*, but because I have not been so fortunate as himself, he turns up his nose at me, and looks as if he thought me unworthy of his notice: he has forgotten his creditors at Cork, I suppose.’

‘AT Cork, Sir!’ said Mr. Merrick, eagerly; ‘did Mr. Jarvis ever live at Corke?’

‘AYE, Sir, as sure as you sit there. He was born at Cork; his father was a very eminent linen-draper there, and left him at his death in a good way of business: but he chose to be a gentleman, and therefore sold off all his stock, kept the most expensive company, lived in the most extravagant manner, ran deeply in debt, debauched a pretty innocent girl, the daughter of an honest cottager who entertained him hospitably when he was seized with a sudden illness, and fled from Ireland for fear of being arrested: I could tell you a great deal more of his history, a great deal more than he thinks I know of? but I don’t care to run on against him, lest I should be suspected of speaking thus concerning him out of envy.—

MR. MERRICK certainly *did* suspect the communicative gentleman of being under the influence of that very common passion, though he seemed not conscious of its operation on him; but being satisfied with what he had heard, he laid down his three-pence, and walked away.

WHEN

WHEN he came to the earl's, and was told that Lord Clayton was in his own apartment, he went up to him, and as soon as he entered the room, said, perceiving him in a melancholy attitude, 'Courage, my lord, we shall prosper at last, I believe—'

LORD CLAYTON, starting from his pensive posture, replied, 'What do you mean, my dear Sir?'

'MR. JARVIS is the very man we could wish him to be: the individual Tom Jarvis of Corke, and I shall take the first opportunity to make the earl acquainted with his history, not doubting but that his lordship will then see him in another, and less advantageous light.'

'You are extremely kind, Sir,' said Lord Clayton, 'to give yourself so much trouble on my account; but I am afraid you will not be successful, for—'

'WELL, well,' said Mr. Merrick, hastily interrupting him, 'I hear your father's voice, I will go and try what effect my intelligence will have upon him—His family-pride and his regard for *character* may, perhaps, get the better of his avarice, when I have informed him of Mr. Jarvis's origin, and of his many dishonourable actions.'

THUS having said, he went directly in search of his lordship, and found him in his library.

WHEN

WHEN he had related all that he had heard, on very good authority, concerning Mr. Jarvis, he added, ‘ And now, my lord, can you really think an alliance with such a man a desirable thing ? will he not, with all his wealth, be a disgrace to your family.?’

‘ My dear Merrick,’ said my lord at the conclusion of those queries, ‘ you have discovered a great deal of affection for my son, by endeavouring to prejudice me against an alliance which squares not with his inclination ; but all you have heard concerning Mr. Jarvis may be false, for the distinguished favourites of fortune are always enviable objects, and it is the perpetual employment of the poor to circulate malicious reports against the rich. Somebody, I suppose, who knew *him* in different circumstances, and is discontented with *his own*, has trumped up a heap of lies, in order to tarnish the lustre of his wealth : what you have communicated, therefore, will not deter me from, entering into any family-connections with him.’

MR. MERRICK was going to authenticate his narrative, by mentioning Mr. Meredith’s name, with whose character and connections his lordship could not be unacquainted, hoping thereby to remove all his incredulity : but a servant coming in to announce the very man, of whom he had been talking, put a stop to any farther conversation about him at that time. He therefore retired, in order to look for his nephew, not at all pleased with the opening of his interview with Lord Bromley, yet
not

not in a despairing way with regard the result of another : he was not easily thrownt out in the pursuit of any kind of game ; he was of a most persevering disposition, and consequently very well qualified to go t hrough the business which he had undertaken.

MR. JARVIS, having congratulated his lordship on his son's safe arrival from Ireland, asked if he was at home. Lord Bromley said, that he had not seen him for some hours, but touched the bell—Lord Clayton was abroad.

‘ WELL, my dear Lord, I hope to have the honour of your lordship's company and your son's to-morrow at dinner : I shall have a few friends of both sexes : and then Lord Clayton and my daughter will have a good opportunity to chat a little together, and take other themselfe agreeable each other before they join hands.’

LORD BROMLEY, while he was returning home with his son and Mr. Merrick, asked the former how he liked Miss Jarvis ?

‘ HAD not my affections been pre-engaged, my lord, I might have, perhaps, found her charms irresistible : but handsome and accomplished as I will allow her to be, I feel that I can love no woman but Miss Meredith.’

‘ AND if your lordship knew as much of Miss Meredith as I do,’ said Mr. Merrick, ‘ you would not wonder at my nephew's attachment to her—Miss Jarvis is to be sure an agreeable girl, and talks very modestly, very sensibly

‘ sensibly indeed ; but she must not be mentioned the same day with Miss Meredith, for all that. I only wish you could see them together, you would soon see the difference between them, and if the scale did not turn in Miss Meredith’s favour—

‘ PRYTHEE, dear Merrick,’ said my lord, interrupting him, ‘ do not Meredith my ears in this manner: you make me quite sick of the name’—Then addressing himself to Lord Clayton, added ‘ You will like Miss Jarvis more and more, George, every time you see her: she is one of those girls who improves upon an acquaintance, and will, I dare swear, make an excellent wife. But however, whether you like her or not, you *must* marry her, because I have settled every thing with regard to fortune (which is the main point) with Mr. Jarvis. Relying on your obedience, as you never gave me reason to believe that you would prove an undutiful son, I made a good bargain for you in your absence, not imagining that you would have had any desire to start objections to it. Besides, you might have informed me, I think, of your prepossessions in favour of Miss Meredith, had you been open, and consulted me upon the occasion as a friend as well as parent—I have not been a bad father to you, George—I should not have gone so far, perhaps: but since things are thus situated, I can not set aside the match with honour, and I hope you would not wish me to lessen myself by any dishonourable proceedings.’

LORD

LORD CLAYTON made no reply: nor was there a word spoken either by himself, his father, or his uncle, during the remainder of the ride.

As soon as they got home, however, Lord Bromley, closteting his son, said to him 'Well, George, have you considered about what I told you in the coach?'

'It requires all my consideration, my lord: your lordship has acted in so precipitate a manner as to lay me under a necessity of being either undutiful or unhappy.'

'NAY, George, it is you who have acted precipitately in this affair: the transaction of my business with Mr. Jarvis was the result of much reflection; and I do assure you that his daughter will bring more money into the family than I could have expected.'

'MONEY, my lord, alone, will not make the marriage-state happy.'

'WITHOUT money, it will certainly, be miserable.'

'It cannot be totally so, if the parties love each other sincerely; for then they will do everything in their power to lessen the weight of their poverty, and have recourse to a thousand ingenious expedients for the improvement of their circumstances, which those who are not linked together by mutual esteem would never dream of.'

“ I HAVE known instances to the contrary : I have seen many very loving couples completely wretched for want of that necessary supplement to matrimony which seems to be, in your opinion, of so little consequence. But your thoughts are too much employed about Miss Meredith to let you see what I have done for you in a proper light : I will, therefore, give you time to prepare for the event which I have so much at heart : only remember this, George, if you do not make Miss Jarvis your wife in a fortnight, you will perhaps drive me to discover some marks of my resentment, which may tend to make you repent of your disobedience. I once flattered myself, indeed, that you had filial affection enough to hinder you from wishing to render me an unhappy father : but now I find that I foolishly flattered myself, and that you have no regard either for my honour or my happiness.”

At the conclusion of that speech, Lord Bromley quitted the room, and left his son in a situation more easily to be conceived than described. Various and violent were the emotions which he felt in his distracted breast, and cruel was the conflict in it between love and duty. The threatened resentment, in case of his disobedience, made a deep impression on his heart, full of sensibility ; but the severe and injurious charge against his filial affection pierced it to the quick.

IN this torturing situation he remained till the day before the expiration of the fortnight allowed him for coming to a resolution concern-

ing his union with Miss Jarvis : he then received some respite to his cutting disquietude, by the arrival of an express from his father's steward in Cheshire (in which county his lordship had a considerable estate) to inform him that his house had been fired by lightning, and that the flames had done a great deal of damage before they could be extinguished.

VERY much chagrined at such disagreeable intelligence, Lord Bromley left London directly, to be an eye-witness of the havock committed by the fire, and to see what orders were necessary upon the unfortunate occasion. He was, also, the more eager to pursue his Cheshire journey, as he had some curious furniture and some valuable pictures there which he wished to find uninjured.

WHILE Lord Bromley was surveying his house in its ruinous state; a few apartments only having escaped the fury of the flames, and lamenting the destruction of that furniture and those pictures, the sight of which used to give him inexpressible satisfaction, he was seized with a malignant fever, which, though he recovered from after a long and severe conflict, left such a weakness in his limbs that he could not walk across the room without assistance.

LORD CLAYTON, having like a dutiful son hurried down to his father as soon as he heard of his being taken ill, and behaved to him while he lay in a very dangerous condition with the most affectionate tenderness and solicitude, made so great a change in his sentiments, that he began to wish he had not so hastily tied

himself in such a manner with Mr. Jarvis (who was bent on making his daughter a countess) as to incur the forfeiture of a considerable sum, if the match was broken off by him: the thoughts of that forfeiture, his strong passion for money, and his paternal feelings operating together, produced a violent commotion in his mind; and he was the more miserable because he was ashamed to tell Lord Clayton what a rash promise his avarice had prompted him to make to Mr. Jarvis.

HAMPERED in this manner, Lord Bromley, did not know how to enquire after his son's resolution with regard to the lady whom he had provided for him, because he had reason to believe, that he should receive an answer which would embarrass him extremely.—‘I have been too precipitate—George is too good a son to be rendered unhappy—I would give *some* money, with all my heart, to be off my promise to Jarvis; but the sum stipulated between us is too much to forfeit.’ Thus was his lordship pulled different ways by his paternal affection, his avarice, his shame, and his repentance.

LORD CLAYTON, not being acquainted with the change in his father's sentiments, attended him in a state of no small anxiety, while his carriage was in every respect dutiful and affectionate; hoping, however, at times, that from his lordship's never mentioning the name of Miss Jarvis, he was reflecting upon the unjustness as well as precipitation of his proceedings with Mr. Jarvis, and contriving some means to annul them with a good grace.

WHILE

WHILE Lord Bromley and Lord Clayton were in this situation in Cheshire, Mr. Merrick received a visit from a female whom he had never seen before.—The servant, from the shabbiness of her appearance, refused to let her in; but Mr. Merrick, happening to have a view of her as he crossed the hall, and perceiving something agreeable in her *tout ensemble*, in spite of her disadvantageous dress, desired John to admit her.

As soon as she entered the parlour, Mr. Merrick, having begged her to sit down, asked her what business she had with him?—‘I don’t remember,’ added he ‘that I ever saw you till now, madam.’

He made use of the word madam, because he discovered something in her, which distinguished her from the vulgar of her sex.

‘You never, I believe, Sir, saw me before; nor can I recollect your face: but I am come to you as to a man of whose humanity and benevolence I have heard a great deal; so much, Sir, that I have the less occasion to make an apology for presuming to wait on you.’

MR. MERRICK was a little puzzled at her preamble; but, thanking her for the compliment she paid him, intreated her to come to the point at once, and tell him who she was, and what she wanted with him.

‘My name, Sir, is Barton.’

‘WHAT, Mr. Jarvis’s Molly Barton!’

‘THE same, Sir.’

‘I AM glad to hear you say so, with all my heart.’

‘MY parents’—

‘I DO not want any account of your parents —Only tell me what has happened to you since you left Ireland with Mrs. Jordan. You have been used very ill, I know, but I hope your unhappy days will soon be over; over they soon shall be, if I can make them otherwise.’

MRS. BARTON having bowed her head to thank him for so good-natured a declaration, thus proceeded:

‘WITH Mrs. Jordan, Sir, I came to England, and lived with her five years as happy as I could be in a state of separation from Mr. Jarvis, whom, in spite of his cruel behaviour to me, I still loved, and from my dearest daughter, whose absence I severely felt, not hearing any thing about either of them during that time. By chance, I was then informed, that Mr. Jarvis was in the East-Indies in a very flourishing way, but of my daughter no tidings came to my ears. Mrs. Jordan finding herself, on her arrival, in the possession of a large fortune by the death of her sister, acquainted Mr. Jordan with

with the news, which soon brought him over; but he lived not long to enjoy the addition to his income. For five years, as I said, Sir, I lived with Mrs. Jordan, I was treated by her with the greatest kindness, and she always told me that she would remember me in her will: she died, however, without a will, and her heirs at law not only paid no regard to a verbal request which she made a few minutes before her decease in my favour, being utterly unable to use her hand, but stripped me of the presents which my liberal benefactress had occasionally given me, and turned me out of the house, to shift for myself, with only the cloaths I wore, and the little money I had in my pocket. Opposition to their ungenerous proceedings would have been equally ridiculous and ineffectual; I therefore quitted the house, without saying a syllable to them, and solicited the protection of a lady who had been intimately acquainted with Mrs. Jordan, and who always behaved to me in a manner as if she thought I merited the kindnesses bestowed on me: consequently I had no reason to expect an unfriendly reception from her. Mrs. Mawson did indeed receive me with a friendship for which I was very grateful, and told me that if I chose to live with her as a companion, she would endeavour to make some amends for the loss I had sustained by the death of her friend. I readily accepted of her flattering offer, and found her as good as her word: she treated me as affectionately as if I had been nearly related to her, and whenever I was indisposed, left nothing undone to recover

‘ my health : but my happiness under her roof
‘ was not of a long duration ; for in less than
‘ half a year it was interrupted by the arrival
‘ of her son, an officer in the army, who was
‘ just come from Gibraltar.

‘ CAPTAIN MAWSON was every way
‘ formed by nature to attract the attention, and
‘ to engage the affections of our sex : he was
‘ extremely agreeable in his person, and insinuat-
‘ ating in his manners ; his eyes and his voice
‘ were both so bewitching, that no woman, I
‘ believe, could be totally indifferent to his
‘ looks, or his conversation : I was, I confess,
‘ not insensible to his captivating powers, but
‘ I was not so far seduced by them, as to prove
‘ unfaithful to Mr. Jarvis, though he had pro-
‘ ved so unkind, I might also say, inhuman to
‘ me : I loved him, as I said before, in spite
‘ of the ill usage I had received from him, and
‘ consequently resisted all the captain’s sollicita-
‘ tions. It is impossible to enumerate the me-
‘ thods he took to gain my affections : he spent
‘ his whole time in trying to soften my heart ;
‘ but all his art and assiduities were insufficient
‘ to obtain the point he aimed at. I behaved
‘ to him with the greatest complaisance, on
‘ Mrs. Mawson’s account ; but I kept him at a
‘ proper distance, and would not suffer him to
‘ take unbecoming liberties with me. My re-
‘ served forbidding carriage to him, however, did
‘ not discourage him : he was unwearied in his
‘ perseverance, and grew, indeed, at last so
‘ troublesome with his importunities, that I
‘ determined to remove myself, in order to
‘ avoid them. The captain, to do him justice,
‘ when

‘ when he found that I resented the licentious-
‘ ness of his conversation, offered to marry me :
‘ but if I had loved him ever so much, I would
‘ not have, by accepting his offer, made so base
‘ a return to my generous benefactress for all
‘ her goodness to me. I, therefore, told her
‘ the truth of the affair, and informed her, at the
‘ same time, that I scorned, by taking advan-
‘ tage of the captain’s proposal, to render my-
‘ self unworthy of the esteem she had discover-
‘ ed for me : but I could not help adding, that
‘ I must leave her house, if her son continued
‘ to distress me with intreaties I could not com-
‘ ply with honourably, supposing my inclinati-
‘ on led me to a compliance.

‘ MRS. MAWSON was very much pleased
‘ with my openness upon the occasion, and said,
‘ that she would talk roundly to her son for de-
‘ grading himself in such a manner. With all
‘ her amiable qualities, Mrs. Mawson had a great
‘ deal of family-pride, and never would have
‘ forgiven me, I dare say, if I had consented
‘ to become the captain’s wife. She also desired
‘ me not to think of leaving her.—You have
‘ shewed yourself, continued she, so deserving
‘ a girl by this honest confession of yours, that
‘ I may safely trust my son and you in the same
‘ house together.

‘ ‘AFTER such a speech I expected to remain
‘ in the situation I was, unmolested by the cap-
‘ tain, and without having any reason to ap-
‘ prehend a compelled removal : but envy and
‘ malice were employing their invention a-
‘ gainst me, and I was destined to be a victim
‘ to their combined attacks.

‘ AMONG the ladies whom Mrs. Mawson visited, was a Mrs. Banister, who had a daughter, a very pretty girl, and the toast of the neighbourhood. Captain Mawson was a man of no small consequence in the eyes of all the ladies in whose circles he appeared ; but Miss Banister was particularly struck with his whole figure and appearance ; and as visits between the families were frequently exchanged, fresh fuel was perpetually added to the flame which love had raised in her tender bosom. Finding, however, that the captain seemed to be quite unaffected by her charms, and perceiving whenever she saw us together, that I was a superior object in his eyes, envy fired her with resentment against me, and prompted her to do every thing in her power to procure my dismissal from Mrs. Mawson’s : she was exceedingly artful, and I was sacrificed to her malicious ingenuity. She had address enough to make Mrs. Mawson believe, that I had abused her with a fictitious story ; that I had endeavoured to draw in the captain to marry me ; and that finding he was not to be wheedled into matrimony by me, I had very impertinently accused *him* of having strongly solicited *my* consent.

‘ MISS BANISTER’S efforts to throw me friendless again into the world, were but too successful : for the captain having declared to his mother, to prevent my removal, as he afterwards told me, which he could not bear to think of, that he had no designs upon me in any shape, Mrs. Mawson immediately beheld me in a new light, after Miss Banister’s visit
‘ to

to her on my account, and concluded that I had done my utmost to seduce her son; and considered me, therefore, as no longer worthy of her regard and protection. In short, Sir, I was dismissed with a severe lecture, in which my insolence and ingratitude were pretty largely insisted on, without any recommendation to another family. However, as I was persuaded I did not deserve the treatment I had met with, and conscious of having merited a very different behaviour, as I might have been married to the captain, if I had been governed only by interested considerations, I did not give myself up to despair, but conveyed myself to an adjacent county, where a distant relation of Mrs. Jordan's lived, a Mrs. Davis, a very good kind of woman.

WHEN I arrived at Mrs. Davis's, she was surrounded with company: it was a merry day, for it was the wedding-day of one of her nieces: the old lady was, therefore, in high spirits. She received me in the most cordial manner imaginable—Why did not you come to me at cousin Jordan's death, Molly, said she, you should have been vastly welcome to live at my house till you heard of a place you liked better? In this hospitable and good-humoured strain did she talk to me. I thanked her with a most grateful heart for giving me so friendly a reception, and acquainted her with as much of my history as would, I thought, serve to prejudice her more in my favour.

MRS. Davis's niece being married to the son of an East-India director, I availed myself

of the kindness of her carriage to me, and of her husband's friendly behaviour in consequence of it, to get me a passage to Bengal in the first ship that sailed thither: and by Mr. Thornhill's powerful recommendation of me to his father, I was not only put upon the list of those who were to go passengers, but furnished with a sum more than sufficient to defray the probable expences attending so long a voyage.

I LEFT England with the less regret, with the more pleasure indeed, because I heard a little while before my departure, that Mr. Jarvis was well at Bengal; though some discouraging sensations were mingled with the animating ones. If after all the pains I have taken to see him again, he should either pretend not to know me, or spurn me from him with contempt, how melancholy, how distressful will be my situation in a part of the world to which I shall be an utter stranger, unprovided with the least means for subsistence, friendless and forlorn! Such were the discouraging thoughts which frequently came across my mind; but the longing desire I had to see the dear cruel man, whose unkindness I forgave, and whose love I could not forget, drove away all such thoughts, and I went on board full of the most flattering hopes.

AFTER a safe and pleasant voyage, I landed at Bengal, but with a variety of emotions; some of which were, in spite of my hopes, so very disheartening, that I with difficulty supported myself from fainting while I was carried

‘ carried ashore : I actually did faint soon afterwards, when I was informed that Mr. Jarvis had sailed the week before for Holland, on board a Dutch India-man.

‘ I was, in a short time, restored to my senses by the humanity of the people about me ; but they only, by their humanity, made me feel the full force of their information, which shocked me the more because it was unexpected : the unprepared are always doubly disappointed ; and such a disappointment would have perhaps unhinged my reason, had not a shower of tears seasonably relieved me.

‘ WHEN I had wept till I was almost sick, I, in the first place, implored the protection of Providence with unfeigned humility and devotion, and then considered how to act in so distressful a situation. While I was considering in what manner to conduct myself, that all-wise and all-good Power, whose assistance I had sincerely and fervently invoked, sent a friend to me, who not only pitied my distress, but exerted himself to alleviate it. Mr. Thornhill, I afterwards found, had strongly recommended me to him as a person deserving of his attention and friendship, if I should stand in need of them. Mr. Graves finding that I was more inclined to follow Mr. Jarvis to Holland, than to return to my own country without him, generously procured me a passage on board a Dutch ship, with the captain of which he was very well acquainted, and made a generous addition to my little cash, which was nearly exhausted, that

‘ that I might not be embarrassed for want of money.

‘ FLATTERED again by hope, I took leave of Mr. Graves, after having gratefully acknowledged the kind presents and kinder advice I had received from him, and went on board the *Texel*, captain *Tromper*, who, though not a polite, was not at all an ill-bred man, but behaved to me with a blunt civility not at all disgusting, and took care to see me decently accommodated.

‘ My arrival in Holland was attended with the same disappointment which I had met with on my landing at Bengal. Mr. Jarvis had been at the very place where I was put ashore, but had left it several weeks before my coming to it.

‘ I then enquired if he was sailed to England or Ireland, and on being told to the latter, soon agreed with a Dutch captain, who was, luckily, just at that time, going thither. My informer deceived me, not intentionally, I believe, as I appeared utterly unknown to him; for as soon as I arrived in Ireland, I heard that he was gone to England. This was indeed a very disagreeable additional disappointment. My affection, however, for Mr. Jarvis increasing in proportion to the difficulties I encountered in trying to get sight of him, would not suffer me to remain inactive: I therefore made the best of my way to Dublin.

‘ HAPPENING

‘ HAPPENING to pass by the cottage in which I was born, and from which I was seduced, I could not avoid shedding tears in abundance. My father and mother had not been dead a great while; but memory brought them so strongly to my view, that a train of the most melancholy reflections immediately arose in my mind.

‘ AT Dublin I took my passage on board one of the packets, and thought myself very happy in finding Mr. Meredith and his family in the same ship. My father had formerly been a tenant of Mr. Meredith’s, who often honoured our little hovel with his presence. I was then very young; but I remember that he took much notice of me, and that he never failed to call me a good girl before he left it.

‘ PERCEIVING that neither he nor Mrs. Meredith, nor Miss Julia, recollected me, I discovered myself to them: they looked at me full of astonishment, and could hardly give credit to what I said, when I told them who I was. They had not seen me, it is true, for several years, and I had certainly endured enough in that time, both in body and mind, to occasion the surprize which my discovery excited in them: for though I always so far trusted in Providence, as to believe that every thing in this world is ordered by him for the wisest purposes, I could not divest myself of sensibility: I could not help feeling the vexations which destroyed my peace, though I endeavoured to bear them with patience.

‘ WHEN

‘ WHEN the first moments of surprize on their side, and of aukward embarrassment on mine were over, I began to make an apology to Mr. Meredith for the liberty I had taken in acquainting him with my name. Those were the happiest days in my life, Sir, said I, in which you knew me at our little cottage : I have gone through more trouble than I can well describe, since I saw you last there.’

‘ I KNOW, my good Mrs. Barton,’ replied he, with the most benevolent aspect, ‘ that you have been very ill used by Mr. Jarvis in various shapes ; but I was in hopes when I heard of your being under the protection of the worthy Mrs. Jordan, that a great part of your affliction, if not all, occasioned by his injurious treatment, would be removed. Have you received any intelligence about him, or your daughter, since your leaving Ireland with that lady ?’

‘ AFTER having thanked him from the bottom of my heart for expressing himself so kindly about me, I informed him of the vicissitudes in my life, from my leaving Ireland with Mrs. Jordan, to my meeting with him. I am now going to England, continued she, in hopes of finding Mr. Jarvis there, in hopes of reviving his affection for me, and in hopes of discovering my dear long-lost daughter.

‘ MR. MEREDITH, when he had told me that he hoped I should see no more unhappy days, acquainted me with Lord Clayton’s uneasy situation on Mr. Jarvis’s account, and
‘ added,

‘ added, Now, Mrs. Barton, I have a scheme
‘ in my head, by following which you may,
‘ perhaps, find yourself benefited by it: my
‘ very good neighbour, Mr. Merrick, Lord
‘ Clayton’s uncle, is now at Bromley-house in
‘ London: he was no stranger to your history
‘ before you went to England with Mrs. Jordan;
‘ he will be very ready to do all in his
‘ power to break off the intend match between
‘ Lord Clayton and your daughter, as both she
‘ and his nephew are otherwise engaged and he
‘ will also, I am sure, take no small pleasure
‘ in trying to prevail on Mr. Jarvis to make you
‘ his wife. To him, therefore, I would advise
‘ you to go, with all possible haste, after your
‘ arrival in England, and he will put you in the
‘ best way to procure an interview with Mr. Jarvis,
‘ and with your Harriot.’

‘ I PROMISED to follow his advice punctually,
‘ and gave myself up again to the flattery of
‘ hope. Our voyage was pleasant, having no
‘ bad weather, and, as the wind was brisk and
‘ favourable, expeditious. We arrived safe
‘ at Holyhead: Mr. Meredith, being taken
‘ extremely ill there, could not proceed: I
‘ would have staid to assist Mrs. and Miss
‘ Meredith in attending him; but he desired me
‘ with so much importunity to come to you, Sir,
‘ and inform you of his arrival, that I could not
‘ refuse his request.’

‘ ONE of my fellow-travellers being an agreeable
‘ young woman, who seemed to have taken a
‘ great fancy to me, I was also prejudiced

' ced so much in her favour, that at the inn
 ' where we stopped at the end of our first day's
 ' journey, we agreed to sleep together! As
 ' my spirits had been jaded, I soon closed my
 ' eyes. When I awaked the next morning, I
 ' was somewhat surprized not to find my com-
 ' panion with me, but more so when I was told
 ' that she could no where be found. As I pro-
 ' ceeded to rise, my astonishment was increas-
 ' ed; not only the greatest part of my cloaths
 ' was missing, but all the money I had in my
 ' pocket. I was almost stunned by a blow for
 ' which I was not in the least prepared. Just
 ' when I recovered a little from it, I received
 ' another shock; for my landlady, when I re-
 ' presented my distressed situation to her, instead
 ' of offering to give me any assistance, behaved
 ' in the rudest manner, absolutely refused to fur-
 ' nish me with any kind of apparel, though I
 ' begged for only the oldest and worst things she
 ' had in her possession, to enable me to pursue
 ' my journey, assuring her, that she would be
 ' no sufferer by her good-nature.

' WHILE I was soliciting, and she turning a
 ' deaf ear to my solicitations, a lady who had
 ' treated me with great politeness during the
 ' voyage and in the coach, came into the room
 ' and upbraided Mrs. Twisden, that was the
 ' landlady's name, in very keen language, for
 ' her inhumanity. I have overheard, continued
 ' she, what has passed between you, and think
 ' you ought to be ashamed of your behaviour
 ' —However, if you really have any old cloaths
 ' in the house of the sort wanted at present,
 ' I desire

‘ I desire you would produce them : you shall
‘ have a reasonable allowance for them.

‘ THE lady pulling out a purse at the same
‘ time, Mrs. Twisden, as soon as she saw the
‘ contents of it, made several aukward apolo-
‘ gies for the brutality of her conduct, and
‘ waddled out of the room, in order to receive
‘ some of them, saying, as she went along, that
‘ she would see what she could do for the young
‘ lady.

‘ WHILE Mrs. Twisden was gone out, repeat-
‘ ing those words, I expressed my gratitude to
‘ the lady in the strongest terms I could make
‘ use of, for so kindly coming to assist me when I
‘ stood so much in need of a friend ; and I found
‘ by her answers, that the regard shewn by
‘ Mr. Meredith and his family had been very
‘ serviceable to me ; though she seemed to be
‘ naturally of a benevolent, compassionating,
‘ and generous disposition.

‘ MRS. TWISDEN returned with the
‘ cloaths in which I now appear. The re-
‘ ception I met with at the door by the servant
‘ who opened it, was not altogether unexpect-
‘ ed, because I felt myself a forbidding figure ;
‘ but I was in hopes, notwithstanding the shab-
‘ biness of my appearance, to get at the sight
‘ of you, having all the reason in the world to
‘ believe that you would excuse that appear-
‘ ance when you was acquainted with the
‘ cause of it. And now, Sir, as I have inform-
‘ ed you of what you wanted to hear concern-
‘ ing me, I hope you will favour me with your
‘ advice

‘advice how to act with regard to Mr. Jarvis and my daughter: I wish to be introduced to them both, but for the manner of my introduction I beg your advice. From what Mr. Meredith said to me concerning you, Sir, I am greatly encouraged to believe that you will be my friend upon this occasion.’

‘That I will,’ said Mr. Merrick eagerly on her ceasing to speak, ‘that I will to the utmost of my power. I have been much affected with several passages in your story, and am the more inclined to serve you from the propriety of your behaviour in situations which required no small discretion. I have your happiness at heart, Mrs. Barton, I have indeed, and will think how to bring about the completion of your wishes: I know what your wishes are, and they ought to be gratified. Come again to me to-morrow: perhaps by that time, I may put things in a train; for when I undertake any sort of business I lose not a moment—Where are you to be found?’

MOLLY having returned Mr. Merrick her sincerest thanks for interesting himself so much in her behalf, promised to wait on him the next morning, and told him that she lodged at Mrs. Jones’s in Bond-street.

‘A RIGHT kind of woman,’ replied he, ‘a right kind of woman: I know her very well: I am glad you lodge at her house; she will not draw you into any disagreeable scrapes.’

MOLLY

MOLLY then took her leave, and returned to her lodgings.

Mr. MERRICK, soon after Molly's departure, thought that a visit to Mr. Jarvis might not be a bad step.—‘ I will go and sound him about Molly Barton, and ask him some artful questions, the answers to which will, probably, instruct me what measures to take for the intended interview between them : and I shall endeavour to paint the good creature in such colours to him, as to render him desirous of making her all the amends in his power for the injuries she has received from him.’

WITH these sentiments he sat out directly for Mr. Jarvis's.

Mr. JARVIS, though he knew that Mr. Merrick was averse to the marriage of Lord Clayton and his daughter, and had, indeed, taken no small pains to dissuade Lord Bromley from making his son miserable by insisting upon his subscribing to engagements into which he had rashly entered during his absence from England, received him very politely. When they were seated, Mr. Merrick delivered himself to him in the following manner :

‘ I AM come to make you a visit, Sir, on a particular occasion—I fell into company yesterday with a Mrs. Barton, an Irish lady, upon my word a sensible, well-behaved woman, and seems to be a very amiable one in every respect. I was wonderfully struck with her, and I do not know whether I shall not
‘ make

‘ make my addressee to her : she tells me she
 ‘ is extremely well acquainted with you, and
 ‘ has spent many agreeable hours in your com-
 ‘ pany—will you favour me with your opinion
 ‘ about her ?’

THE word Barton had such an effect on Mr. Jarvis’s countenance, that he looked disconcerted : and at the end of Mr. Merrick’s speech his emotions were so violent, to such a degree was he shocked by the remembrance of his cruel behaviour to his Molly, that he could only say, ‘ Barton, Sir !’ ‘ O ho, Sir,’ replied Mr. Merrick immediately, ‘ it is very well I mentioned her to you before I made my addressee to her ; it I had been in a hurry, I might have subjected myself to a disagreeable rebuff from your mistress.’

THERE went another arrow to his heart : ‘ O Mr. Merrick,’ said he, ‘ you have undesignedly, given me unspeakable uneasiness—A dear, good creature of that name I once knew ; I used her extremely ill : I am ashamed to say how ill I used her ; but I have been severely punished for all the unjust unkind treatment she received from me. In spite of my prosperity, I am inconceivably unhappy whenever I think of it, and my reflections on it are, I do assure you, very frequent. Could I be blessed with the sight of her now, I would make her all the reparation in my power for my past cruel, I am sorry to add, criminal conduct.’

MR. JARVIS uttered the latter part of his speech with a tone so expressive of unfeigned contrition,

contrition, that Mr. Merrick was moved at it, and was only not sorry for having occasioned such an avowal of his disquietudes, because he was so able to remove them.—‘Whatever your past behaviour has been, Sir,’ said he, ‘your present carriage is altogether commendable; and the Mrs. Barton whom I met yesterday may, perhaps, prove to be the person whom you wish to see.’

‘I AM afraid to expect so much happiness,’ replied Mr. Jarvis; I have heard nothing about my poor Molly these ten years, and therefore dare not hope to be informed of her being alive: my cruelty was sufficient to break the heart of any woman of a tender disposition, in her circumstances, and she was surely the tenderest of her sex.’

‘WAS you acquainted with any lady of the name of Barton, Sir, during the connections with your Molly?’

‘No, Sir.’

‘THIS Mrs. Barton then is most probably your Molly—’

‘I RATHER apprehend, Sir, that the lady you have seen was not a Barton during my acquaintance with her, but became so by marriage after my departure from Ireland.’

‘YOU are not willing, I see, Sir, to encourage flattering expectations, and I cannot blame you for not giving way to them; but

‘ but it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to tell you, that the Mrs. Barton whom I saw yesterday, is the very person whom you are so desirous of seeing.’

MR. JARVIS stood for some moments motionless with astonishment.

‘ ARE you serious, Sir?’

‘ YES, Sir, I am very serious; and you may depend upon my intelligence: I had been acquainted with Mrs. Barton’s history before you left Ireland, by a friend, and she has herself related to me the various changes in her life since.’

‘ YOU amaze me,’ said Mr. Jarvis; ‘ but you also fill my bosom with sensations pleasing beyond description.—I wish to see her, I wish to fold her in my arms; to tell her how sincerely I repent of having so long deserted her, and to fulfil that promise, for the breach of which I have endured the most cutting anxiety.—Where is she, Sir? with whom does she lodge? let me fly to her instantly, and, throwing myself at her feet with the truest penitence, solicit her pardon.’

MR. MERRICK imagining that the sudden appearance of Mr. Jarvis might give too violent a shock to his Molly’s spirits, told him, after having expressed the pleasure which he felt in finding him possessed of such just sentiments, and animated with such agreeable sensations, that he would, with his consent, go and prepare her for his intended visit.

‘ DO,

‘ Do, do, my dear Sir,’ replied he eagerly :
‘ go, I beseech you, immediately, to the
‘ much-injured, amiable woman : I shall wait
‘ with impatience till you return ; and I
‘ shall hasten with transport to her, when you
‘ have prepared her to receive me.—O may I
‘ be received rather according to my wishes
‘ than my deserts !’

WHILE the above dialogue was carried on between Mr. Merrick and Mr. Jarvis, Mrs. Barton’s tenderness and sensibility were severely tried.—Passing through Mrs. Jones’s shop (on her return from Bromley-house) who was a milliner, in order to go up to her own apartment, she took particular notice of a fine girl looking over some laces, and thought she recollected in her face the features of her Harriot. As there were several ladies, however, examining the things offered to their inspection, she beckoned Mrs. Jones into a back-parlour, and asked her if the name of the young lady who stood near the window talking to one of her apprentices, was not Jarvis.

ON Mrs. Jones’s answering in the affirmative, Mrs. Barton begged the favour of her to bring Miss Jarvis into the parlour, under a pretence of having something out of the common way to produce, for her opinion about it.

MRS. JONES readily complied with her request, and Miss Jarvis with the invitation which followed it.

As soon as Miss Jarvis entered the room, Mrs. Barton rose from her chair, advanced towards her, and after having attentively fixed her eyes upon her for some moments, threw her arms round her neck, burst into tears, and said, with interrupted accents—‘ Yes—yes—‘ you are my dear, my long-lost daughter—my ‘ Harriot—my’——

MORE words she could not utter; she felt much more than she could articulate—She could only press her beloved child closely to her tender bosom, and murmur out the gratitude of her heart to Heaven for the restoration of her to her fond endearments, after having been so long separated from them.

MISS JARVIS not having been in the least prepared for so important a discovery, so melting an interview, was not able to support the surprise which they occasioned, but fainted in those arms which affectionately embraced her. Soon recovering, however, she fell on her knees, and bathed her mother’s hands with her tears—‘ Am I then,’ said she, ‘ so blessed as ‘ to see again a parent whose tenderness to me ‘ I well remember, though I was very young ‘ when my father carried me away from her— ‘ Surely, madam, you are greatly altered, for ‘ I should not have known you any where— ‘ but I thank Heaven most fervently for this ‘ unexpected, though often wished-for event.’

MRS. BARTON having raised her daughter from the floor, replied, ‘ I believe I am greatly altered, my dear child, since your father
ther

‘ther conveyed you from me, for I have met
‘with many trying disappointments: but I
‘forgive him; I forgive him from my heart.’

‘He deserves your forgiveness, madam,’ said Harriot, ‘for he sincerely, I will venture to
‘say, repented of his cruel behaviour to you.
‘O how rejoiced he will be to be informed that
‘you are so near him!’

JUST when she had pronounced those words, Mr. Merrick entered the room, and with all the warmth of true benevolence, enjoyed the discovery which the interview between the mother and the daughter had produced: then, having confirmed what Miss Jarvis had said with regard to her father’s repentance, with several additional circumstances not less agreeable, he offered to wait on them both home.

MISS JARVIS told him that his offer was a very kind one; but added, that she thought it better for *her* to go home first, and for him to follow with her mother. As they both readily subscribed to her opinion, she immediately took leave of them.

THE pleasing emotions which the discovery of a parent from whom she had been so long separated had raised in her gentle bosom, winged her feet, and she was soon at home.

As soon as she entered the room in which her father was sitting, she said, ‘Oh Sir!’ and burst into tears.

MR. JARVIS could not possibly conceive what she had met with abroad to occasion so afflicted an appearance, as she went out in good spirits, and remarkably chearful indeed; but imagining that some distressful object had fallen under her notice, which, from the natural tenderness of her temper, she wished to relieve, he asked her in the most soothing terms, in what melancholy scene she had been engaged—
‘What has happened to excite so much sorrow, my dear?’—

‘OH! such a scene—such a scene—Sir—
‘But my tears are not tears of sorrow—I weep
‘for joy—My mother, my dear mother is’—

‘WHERE? where? I have heard of her
‘since you left me, and am impatient to embrace her.’

‘She will be here presently, Sir, with Mr.
‘Merrick.’—

‘AYE, he is the person who informed me
‘about her, and who generously undertook to
‘prepare her for our meeting: the worthy
‘creature, how I love him for his humanity!’

HARRIOT then related to her father what had passed at Mrs. Jones’s, and just as she had concluded her narrative, Mr. Merrick arrived with Mrs. Barton.

MR. JARVIS flew to receive his Molly with open arms; but before he could reach the door she fainted in those of her daughter.

WHEN

WHEN she, by their affectionate assiduities united, came to herself, she lifted up her hands and eyes, and thanked Heaven in the most grateful language, the language of her heart, for having blessed her again with the sight of a man whom she had so many years wished to see.

‘ You had no reason to wish to see me again, my dear Molly,’ said he, pressing her to his bosom, ‘ because I behaved to you with a baseness, which at this instant strongly recollected, calls up blushes in my cheeks, the blushes of remorse; but I will make you all the amends within the reach of my abilities for the cruelty of my past conduct: it can never be forgotten, but I hope it will be forgiven by you.’

‘ It is forgiven: it is sincerely forgiven,’ Sir,’ replied Molly, wiping her eyes with her handkerchief: ‘ the excessive pleasure which I feel in being so kindly received by you, and in finding my dear Harriot, almost overwhelms me: I cannot describe what I feel on this unexpected flow of felicity.’

‘ THE pleasure which I feel too,’ said he ‘ is not less intense than yours, my dearest Molly; but you seem to be in so tremulous a state, that you had better, in my opinion, retire till your spirits are not so fluttered.’

HARRIOT, who had been talking aside with Mr. Merrick, struck with the latter part of that speech, went directly to her mother, and

said, ' Will you give me leave, madam, to wait on you to another room ? my father's hint is of too much consequence to be neglected.'

THESE words prettily spoken, and happily timed, had the intended effect upon Mrs. Barton, and she willingly, after having looked very tenderly at Mr. Jarvis, who returned her look with equal affection, retired with her daughter.

WHEN they had left the room, Mr. Merrick, advancing to Mr. Jarvis, heartily congratulated him on the happiness which he felt. ' I am sure this interview has proved a satisfactory one: your eyes sufficiently declare your sensations, without the assistance of words.'

' My eyes then, Sir, are faithful interpreters of my feelings, for I never was so happy in my life; no, not when I first became acquainted with my Molly's blushing charms: and as you have been so instrumental in procuring me the happiness which I at this moment enjoy, in so high a degree, I shall always think myself under great obligations to you.'

MR. MERRICK, having made a proper reply to that speech, deemed it prudent to retreat.

SOON after his departure Mrs. Barton reentered the room with her daughter, and a very affectionate scene followed between her and Mr.

Mr. Jarvis; who, no longer able to bear the thoughts of having seduced her from a state of innocence by villainous proceedings, heightened the transports which his presence had excited in her breast, by assuring her, with the most solemn and binding expressions, that he would in a few days atone for his barbarous triumph over her virtue at the altar. ‘When I have made you my wife,’ continued he, ‘I shall have entirely quieted my conscience, for I have already satisfied all my creditors at Cork, from whom I fled in so dishonourable a manner—And now, my dear Molly, I should be glad to hear what adventures you have met with since I left you so cruelly.’

MRS. BARTON having acquainted him with the generous behaviour of his creditors to her, proceeded to inform him of the many changes she had experienced in her life, and concluded with saying, ‘You see,’ my dear Mr. Jarvis, ‘I have been rather fortunate than unlucky upon the whole. Providence, on whose goodness I constantly relied, and at whose decrees I never murmured under any disappointment, never suffered me to be in absolute distress, and my heart now glows with gratitude to him for having thus so amply rewarded me for my resignation.’

MR. JARVIS was equally ready to acknowledge the goodness of providence, in bringing about an event so long, so mutually wished for, when such an event had been almost, on both sides, despaired of, and told his Molly, that what she had endured for his sake, would make him

doubly careful not to be the cause of any future infelicity to her.

MRS. BARTON looked at him as if she fully believed him to be sincere, and when she had declared the satisfaction which that assurance had given her, intreated him to relate what adventures he had met with since his departure from Cork, if the relation of them would not be disagreeable to him.

‘ I AM very ready to comply with your intreaty, my dear Molly,’ said he, pressing her hand, ‘ though the recollection of the part I had in some particular scenes will occasion painful sensations in me. However, as I am a sincere penitent, I will be a faithful narrator: the recollection of my past vices and follies may perhaps tend to strengthen the resolution which I have formed to lead a new life.

WHEN I left you in so abrupt a manner, in such embarrassed circumstances, I hastened with my Harriot (whom I could not help taking with me, so fond was I of her) and with her maid, to embark for England. I had plunged myself into such difficulties by my foolish and vicious pursuits, that I could no longer remain either in happiness or safety among the people who had ruined me, especially among those whom I shamefully amused with a fictitious story about an estate fallen to me—The truth is, I had determined to convey myself to England, in order to try the generosity of a distant relation of my father’s: I had never seen him indeed, but I presumed
‘ upon

“ upon the known benevolence of *his* disposition
 “ and my own address for an easy passage to his
 “ purse. However chusing not to depend en-
 “ tirely either upon my dexterity or my constan-
 “ guinity, I resolved to draw money enough
 “ from my deceived friends to enable me to sub-
 “ sist for some time, in case of meeting with a
 “ forbidding reception from my cousin Tisdale,
 “ that I might have leisure to strike upon a new
 “ expedient for the bettering of my fortune. Hap-
 “ pily for me, Mr. Tisdale was the very person
 “ I wished him to be ; he received me as the
 “ son of a man for whom he had had the highest
 “ regard ; and accommodated me and my Harri-
 “ ot in the most desirable way at his house. Mrs.
 “ Tisdale soon grew so charmed with Harriot’s
 “ entertaining prattle, that she paid as much at-
 “ tention to her as if she had been her own
 “ daughter, having no child of her own.

“ You may, with great reason, my dear
 “ Molly, ask me what you had done to deserve
 “ so cruel a desertion. You certainly had done
 “ nothing to deserve it : my conduct must
 “ therefore be attributed to some of those inconsis-
 “ tencies belonging to human nature which are
 “ never to be accounted for : you merited quite
 “ a different treatment, and I suffered enough
 “ afterwards by the reproaches of a guilty con-
 “ science, for having barbarously treated the
 “ woman who had proved herself to be the best
 “ friend I had in the world.

“ WHEN I had been a few months at Mr.
 “ Tisdale’s hospitable mansion, Mrs. Tisdale’s
 “ brother, whose name was Jordan, came down
 “ on a visit. This gentleman, having been

‘ lately chosen an India director, and finding
 ‘ me of an enterprizing turn, told me, that if
 ‘ I had any inclination to go a nabob-hunting,
 ‘ he would endeavour to procure me a genteel
 ‘ employment in the company’s service.

‘ I ACKNOWLEDGED myself much obliged to
 ‘ him for so polite and generous an offer of his
 ‘ friendship and assistance, and I really was so;
 ‘ for I had a very strong desire to raise a large
 ‘ fortune with rapidity.

‘ MR. JORDAN proved to be *not* a mere man
 ‘ of words; for in about three weeks after his
 ‘ departure from us, he begged me, in a very
 ‘ kind letter, to favour him with my presence
 ‘ in Crosby-square. I lost no time, but set
 ‘ out as ~~soon~~ as a post-chaise could be got ready,
 ‘ and made my appearance at the place appointed
 ‘ sooner than it was expected.

‘ MR. JORDAN having informed me on my
 ‘ arrival, that I had been, by *his* recommendation,
 ‘ nominated to an advantageous post at
 ‘ Bengal, I returned him my sincerest thanks
 ‘ for his friendliness and activity on my account,
 ‘ and was carried by him the next day to pay
 ‘ my respects to the court in Leaden-Hall-
 ‘ Street.

‘ MR. and Mrs. Tisdale felt, apparently, little
 ‘ less pleasure than myself on my appointment,
 ‘ and most agreeably, as well as most usefully,
 ‘ assisted me in making preparations for my
 ‘ voyage.

‘ WHEN

‘ WHEN I was ready to go on board, I began to feel some parental emotions which prompted me to give up the flattering prospects which hope pictured to my view. I loved my Harriot, so tenderly loved her, and reflected so deeply on the uncertainty of my ever seeing her again, that my resolution was staggered, and my rage for sudden riches considerably abated.

‘ AT length, however, a different train of ideas arose in my mind. I considered that I should leave my child to the care of an amiable woman, who seemed to be maternally fond of her, and who would therefore, I could not but believe, bring her up with as much circumspection and solicitude as if she had been *her own*. I considered also, that if heaven should not permit me to see that child again, I should die with the satisfaction of being firmly persuaded that she would, in some shape, be decently provided for by those who had voluntarily undertaken her education. These united considerations soon got the better of all others, and I embarked in a short time afterwards without feeling any more retarding reflections.’

HERE a servant coming in to tell Harriot that her milliner wished to speak with her, she quitted the room.

MR. JARVIS, on his daughter’s retiring, said to Molly, “ I am not sorry, my dear, that Harriot has been called away, as I shall, before I have finished my narrative, relate passages not proper for *her ears* ; because the deli-
very

‘ very of them will kindle blushes in *my face*.—
‘ Parents discover no prudence by communica-
‘ ting to their children a catalogue of their
‘ weakneses and of their vices, of their follies
‘ and of their crimes—But to proceed—

‘ AFTER a pleasant voyage I arrived at Ben-
‘ gal, and took possession of the post to which
‘ I had been nominated, by producing a letter
‘ to the governor. The respect which that
‘ post procured me, and the emoluments an-
‘ nexed to it, gave me, at first, so much plea-
‘ sure, that I thought myself in a very happy
‘ situation, and dreamt of nothing but dia-
‘ monds—But I soon found myself in a very un-
‘ enviable [condition. The person who had
‘ been removed to make way for *me*, had ma-
‘ ny friends, much money, and a great deal of
‘ spirit. He resented extremely the ill usage
‘ he had met with from the court of directors,
‘ not being conscious of ever having had re-
‘ course to illicit proceedings to push his fortune.
‘ In consequence of his connections, his wealth,
‘ his spirit, and his resentment, he raised such
‘ a storm against me that my life was a life of
‘ turbulence and disquiet. Yet, disqui-
‘ eting as my station was, I might have per-
‘ haps, by an irreproachable behaviour, si-
‘ lenced the clamours of my bitterest ene-
‘ mies, and conciliated them so far to me as
‘ to have induced them not to render me weary
‘ of a post to which I had been promoted
‘ without having any measures to make my
‘ predecessor obnoxious to his superiors. By
‘ such a behaviour, I might have, perhaps,
‘ enjoyed my post in peace ; but I certainly,
‘ by

‘ by the folly of my conduct, increased the infelicity of which I complained.

‘ ELATED with the power with which I was invested, and flushed with the riches which rolled in upon me, I abused them both; for I added extravagance to extortion. The same follies, the same vices, to which I had been from early youth—I am ashamed to say—strongly addicted, still haunted me, and drew me with an irresistible violence from the paths of virtue and discretion. I dissipated profusely the wealth which I iniquitously obtained; and by alternately devoting myself to women, wine, and dice, drove away the few friends from me which I had, at my first setting out, interested in my favour, by the propriety of my carriage.—What havoc does prosperity make in the human heart!

‘ WHEN I had been about three years rendering myself less and less worthy of the good fortune which I enjoyed, I received a letter from England to inform me that I must, immediately, on the receipt of it, resign my post to the gentleman who had been dismissed on *my* account.

‘ I WAS very much surprized at this intelligence: but I ceased to be so when I found by another letter, that my good friend Mr. Jordan had no longer any influence at the India-house: I was however extremely chagrined at the information I received from *that* house, because I had by debauchery and profusion injured my constitution, and brought
‘ myself

‘ myself into an entire dependence on the profits arising from my post.

‘ THE intelligence which I received from England was doubly galling, as my successor was to be the very man-whom I had superseded : for, having treated *him* with great insolence, from the time of my taking possession of my employment, I had no reason to expect any but the most provoking behaviour from him in return.

‘ AFTER so severe a blow, my pride would not suffer me to remain in a place wherein I could not, possibly, think of keeping up the splendid appearance to which I had been accustomed : I therefore packed up the most valuable effects I had, and moved to Madras. *There*, by living privately, frugally, and temperately, in every respect (for how many blessings are we indebted to adversity !) I, in a short time, recovered my health, and began to look back on the gay, the gaudy life I had led without regret. *There*, however, I did not live in absolute solitude : I met with unexpected civilities from several people : I passed my time very agreeably, and felt more real pleasure in my new situation in three months than I had felt during the three years of my residence at Calcutta.

‘ IN less than three quarters of a year after my arrival at Madras, the gentleman with whom I was the most intimately acquainted, dying, I could not help instantaneously forming design to make my addresses to the lady to whom he had left all his riches, which
‘ were

‘ were considerable. Mrs. Turner was a very agreeable woman, and not at all a disconsolate widow. From the time of my being well received by her husband she gave me sufficient reason to believe that I might offer to supply his place at a proper juncture, without being apprehensive of a repulse : I had nothing, therefore, to do, I thought, when the last duties were paid, but to mix the tenderness of the *lover* with the condolance of the *friend* : I succeeded according to my wishes ; and, after a decent delay, we were married.

‘ As soon as I found myself once more in prosperous circumstances, I longed with all the ardor of a mock-patriot to be hollowed by a mob at his heels, to return to Calcutta, and blaze among those who had exulted at my degradation. My wife having some relations at Patna, readily closed with my proposal, and we embraced the first opportunity we met with to be conveyed to Bengal.

‘ ON my arrival at Calcutta, I received a disappointment which gave no small uneasiness to my foolish heart ; for the person whom I had left re-instated in his post, and whose envy I intended to have excited by the renewed splendor of my appearance, was dead : my vanity, however, was not totally disappointed ; there were many people remaining whom I wished to mortify, and whom I actually mortified with my presence.

‘ BY prosperity, all those passions which had hurried me into many ridiculous and ruinous

'ous pursuits were again inflamed, and I was
 'once more driven by them to injure my
 'health, and to impair my fortune; the former by an indiscreet commerce with *your* sex,
 'the latter by imprudent connections with *my*
 'own—By that commerce and those connections
 'I soon alarmed my wife, who had reason, indeed, to fear that the riches which she had
 'put into my possession would, in a short
 'time, be wasted among those who found my
 'follies and vices so profitable to them; and
 'that we should be reduced to necessitous circumstances. She was an amiable woman,
 'and very fond of me; but I behaved to her
 'like a brute, and turned a deaf ear to all her
 'judicious and salutary remonstrances against
 'my pernicious proceedings.

'As I now began to grow rather weary of
 'Mrs. Jarvis, having indeed only married her
 'for her money, though she had charms and
 'good qualities sufficient to merit my attention
 'as a woman and a wife, I made several efforts to persuade her to stay with a brother of
 'hers at Patna till my return; but my persuasions were ineffectual: we therefore embarked together.

'WHEN we were within two days sail of
 'Madrafs, we fell in with a French man of
 'war, who carried us to Pondicherry.

'THE governor of that place treated us
 'with great politeness, and assured us that we
 'should have no room to complain of our accommodations. Finding very soon, that my
 'wife's person and genteel carriage had not a
 ' little

‘ little contributed to the kind treatment which
‘ we received, I availed myself of the gover-
‘ nor’s passion for her to let him know that if
‘ he would indulge me with a passage to Ma-
‘ drass, Mrs. Jarvis should be extremely at his
‘ service in my absence. As Monsieur le Che-
‘ vre was an amorous man, he closed with my
‘ offer, and in a few days I left Pondicherry,
‘ on board a Dutch ship, furnished by him with
‘ many presents in return for the surrender
‘ which I had made to him.

‘ WHEN I was under sail I could not help
‘ reflecting on the baseness of my conduct with
‘ regard to my wife, and the remembrance of
‘ my base behaviour to *you*, my dear Molly,
‘ (the recollection of which had frequently, be-
‘ fore, damped me in the midst of a joyous scene)
‘ gave me also, at the same time, many cor-
‘ roding sensations, which became at last so
‘ painful, that I had recourse to the bottle, in
‘ order to forget them.—How naturally does
‘ one wrong action produce another; and how
‘ absurdly do we act when we attempt to ease
‘ the anguish of our minds by throwing our
‘ ideas into confusion!—I drank myself into a
‘ fever. I was attended with the greatest care
‘ during my voyage; but when I arrived at
‘ Madrass my life was thought to be in the most
‘ imminent danger.—During my delirious fits
‘ I raved, I was afterwards told, sometimes
‘ about my wife, sometimes about my dear
‘ Molly: the two women whom I had the
‘ most injured, the most haunted my imagi-
‘ nation.

‘ I recovered,

‘ I recovered, but I recovered only to feel
‘ the weight of a new calamity which I, in
‘ truth, deserved, though I did not bring it
‘ upon myself, for my past misdeeds. My
‘ agent, who had a great deal of my property
‘ in his hands, went from his house suddenly,
‘ and no-body could inform me whither.

‘ THIS was a heavy blow, and I in a little
‘ while found myself in a straitened situation : so
‘ straitened that I was under a necessity of dis-
‘ posing of the presents which I had received
‘ from Le Chevre to supply myself with the
‘ necessaries of life.

‘ THE reflections which arose in my mind,
‘ when I converted those presents into money,
‘ were of the most dispiriting kind ; for I spent
‘ the time chiefly in reproaching myself sharp-
‘ ly for having merited my misfortunes.

‘ WHILE I was turning about my thoughts
‘ to strike on some method to better my situa-
‘ tion, news came from Calcutta that violent
‘ commotions were among the leading men
‘ there ; and that their differences and distract-
‘ ed councils would, probably, give the Indi-
‘ ans no unfavourable opportunity to attack
‘ *that* capital.

‘ I WAS desperate—I had little to lose—I
‘ might gain a great deal—I therefore proceed-
‘ ed to Bengal with all possible expedition,
‘ and arrived at Calcutta just when our troops
‘ were making preparations to march against
‘ their enemies. I offered myself immediately

‘ as a volunteer to the commanding officer who
‘ imagining, perhaps, from the natural viva-
‘ city of my appearance, and the alacrity of my
‘ address to him, that I should not be un-
‘ serviceable on the urgent occasion, animated me
‘ sufficiently to exert all my personal courage in
‘ the approaching action.

‘ BEING resolved to distinguish myself, I
‘ fought like a fury : the day was our own, and
‘ the plunder was immense ; and (as I had dur-
‘ ing the engagement, greatly contributed by
‘ a particular *coup de main* to the victory which
‘ we obtained) I was very handsomely consid-
‘ ered in the distribution of it.

‘ As the action in which I was engaged pro-
‘ ved to be decisive, I had no inducement to
‘ appear again in a military capacity : and as
‘ I was extremely well satisfied with the ho-
‘ nour and the profit I had gained in the *field*,
‘ I endeavoured to improve by traffick what I
‘ had acquired by arms.

‘ FORTUNE, being once more in a good
‘ humour with me, I was so very successful as
‘ a merchant, that in a few years I was master
‘ of more wealth than I had ever possessed : du-
‘ ring those years I became quite a new man,
‘ sincerely repented of all my former follies and
‘ vices, and had firmness enough to keep those
‘ passions strictly under subjection, which had
‘ occasioned such unhappy vicissitudes in my af-
‘ fairs.

‘ WHEN my acquisitions were adequate to
‘ my wishes, I took my passage in the first ship
‘ that

' that was going to Holland, having some bu-
 ' siness to transact there : from thence I went
 ' to Ireland, and when I had discharged all the
 ' debts which I had contracted in that kingdom,
 ' sailed for England, fondly hoping, but little,
 ' I confess, expecting to see *you*, my dear Mol-
 ' ly, again. My wife, whom I had sacrificed
 ' to the wanton appetite of a debauched old sol-
 ' dier, died, I was informed, soon after my
 ' departure from Pondicherry : I had, there-
 ' fore nothing to wish for but to return to my
 ' Harriot, from whom I received several dutiful
 ' and affectionate letters ; but in none of them
 ' was she able to answer the queries I had trans-
 ' mitted to her concerning her much-injured
 ' mother, and to settle her happily in the mar-
 ' riage-state—Luckily I have, since my arri-
 ' val, had an opportunity to put her into a fair
 ' way of being a countess ; and if she is not
 ' contented with the husband I have provided
 ' for her, she deserves to be unhappy, for he
 ' is allowed to be one of the most amiable young
 ' noblemen of the present age.'

HERE Mr. Jarvis, tenderly embracing Mrs.
 Barton, closed his narrative with saying, ' And
 ' now, my dearest Molly, as you have gene-
 ' rously forgiven what is past, I feel myself
 ' happier than ever I was in my life.'

MOLLY having re-assured him that her for-
 giveness was as sincere as her affection for him,
 he desired her to give the necessary orders for
 her *appearance* in a *light* suitable to *his own*, ad-
 ding, at the same time, that he should not
 look upon himself as thoroughly worthy of her
 pardon.

pardon till he had made her his wife.—Molly was all love, gratitude, and obedience.

DURING the above-mentioned interviews, discoveries, dialogues, and narratives in London, interviews, &c. &c. of another kind were going forward in the country.

LORD BROMLEY grew better every day, but he mended slowly. Lord Clayton attended him with all the duty of a good son, and all the affection of a fond one.

IT has already been said that the old earl was very much hampered by the bargain which he had made with Mr. Jarvis, relative to the union between their children : Lord Clayton's dutiful and winning behaviour affected his father in such a manner, that he began to wish heartily he had not tied himself down to forfeiture of a considerable sum, if that union was not confirmed : all this has been already taken notice of, and is only now repeated, because several pages of digression have since intervened.

LORD CLAYTON flattering himself at length, from the satisfaction which his father expressed at his assiduity and solicitude about him, and from the general kindness of his carriage, that he would not persist in making his inclination and duty clash with each other ; he, therefore, ventured one day when his lordship seemed to be remarkably pleased with him, to address him in the following terms : ‘ It gives me the sincerest joy to see your lordship so much satisfied with my attentions ; and I hope you will soon be as well, in every respect,

‘spect, as you was before you was attacked by
‘so alarming a disorder.’

‘As to my health, George, I gain ground,
‘thank God, every day,’ replied his lordship;
‘but I am far from being happy : I am unhap-
‘py on your account.’

‘If *your* happiness depended on *mine*, my
‘lord, you might in a very short time talk in
‘a different strain : for it is in your power, by
‘a very few words, to make me the happiest
‘of men.’

‘I WANT not to be told your meaning,
‘George ; but I have brought myself into
‘such a scrape with Jarvis, that I am ashamed
‘to mention it.’

‘THE mention of it, my lord, may, per-
‘haps, enable me to strike upon a method for
‘your disentangling yourself from it.’

‘No method can be possibly proposed to hin-
‘der me from reproaching myself for my folly
‘—I wish *now*, that I had consulted your in-
‘clination before I had consented to the forfei-
‘ture.’

‘WHAT forfeiture, my Lord ?’

‘THE forfeiture of five thousand pounds, in
‘case of your not marrying, Miss Jarvis : there
‘is, indeed, no written agreement between us,
‘but I am a man of honour, George.’

‘MR.

‘ MR. JARVIS, my lord, discovered a small
‘ regard to his daughter to enter into a treaty
‘ of marriage for her with a man whom she had
‘ never seen.’

‘ I strongly feel the force of that reflected
‘ reproof, said his lordship—Jarvis and I have
‘ both acted like unkind and mercenary parents,
‘ but I cannot bear to think of his having out-
‘ witted me—That sum, George, sticks in my
‘ stomach—It will go confoundedley against
‘ me, and yet I must considered of it.’

WITH those words he left his son abruptly,
who, in a little while afterwards, met with
an unexpected adventure, which will be rela-
ted in the next Volume.

END OF VOL. I.